Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-222
Thursday
17 November 1994

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-222 *17 November 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs
League Chief on Iraq-Kuwait Issue, Mideast Market *[MENA]* 1

Islamic Affairs
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Nov 1

Palestinian Affairs
'Arafat Holds PLO Meeting in Gaza; Turnout Low *[AFP]* 4
Ghawshah Comments on Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Meeting Issues Detailed *[Jericho VOP]* 5
'Arafat Criticizes 'Some' Israeli Politicians *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Nov]* 5
'Arafat Orders Release of 30 Islamic Jihad Activists *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
PA Official Comments on Ties With Jordan *[MENA]* 6
Abu-Zayidah Comments on 'Arafat Remarks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 6
Sha'th Views Israel's Stance on Accords, Attacks *[MENA]* 7
PA: Police To Confiscate all Unlicensed Firearms *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 17 Nov]* 8
Commentary Emphasizes Important Role of PLO *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Hamas Official on Dialogue With Israel, PA *[MENA]* 9
Hamas Activist Shot; Israeli Army Investigates *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
Report on Hamas, Islamic Jihad Units *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 9
Islamic Jihad: Police Gave Bomber Secret Burial *[AFP]* 10
Groups Condemn Detention of Islamic Jihad Members *[AL-NAHAR 15 Nov]* 10
Al-Rujub Denies Anti-Israel Remarks by Security *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 10
Frayj Comments on Transfer of Power in Tourism *[Jericho VOP]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria
Copies of Biggest Daily Seized in Press Crackdown *[AFP]* 12
Reason for Seizure Given *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Editors Warn Freedom of Press Threatened *[Paris International]* 12
Fighting in El Bayadh; 50-55 Gendarmes Said Killed *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Nov]* 13
Minister: Riot Shows 'Terrorists' Lack of Logic *[Algiers Radio]* 13

Egypt
Mubarak Addresses Parliamentary Session *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Mubarak Comments on Syrian-Israeli Peace, Iraq *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Al-Baz Notes Importance of Syrian Role in Peace *[MENA]* 19
PLO's Sha'th Visits, Meets With al-Alfi *[Jericho VOP]* 20
Sha'th Comments on Cooperation *[MENA]* 20
Paper Criticizes Israel's Policy on 'Palestine' *[MENA]* 20
Minister Urges Agricultural Cooperation With Israel *[MENA]* 21
Official on Settling African Disputes, Peacekeeping *[Cairo Radio]* 21
Musa Meets Mauritanian President in Paris *[Cairo Radio]* 21
Mauritanian Minister Urges Membership in AMU *[MENA]* 21
Musa Views Arab Cooperation, Ties With AMU *[MENA]* 22
Editorial Analyzes U.S. Decision on Bosnia *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 12 Nov]* 22
Ministry Claims New Leader of al-Jama'ah Killed *[AFP]* 23
Mubarak: Newspapers Exaggerating Flood Disaster *[MENA]* 23

Morocco
Islamic Groups Oppose Normalization With Israel *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 16 Nov]* 24

Sudan
Al-Bashir Inaugurates 'Supreme Council for Peace' 24
Speaks About Peace Efforts *[Omdurman Radio]* 24
Appeals to Expatriates To Return *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
Ministry Briefed on Islamic Conference Meeting *[Omdurman Radio]* 25

Ummah Party Members Questioned on Secret Paper *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Nov]* .. 26
Rebel Movement Official Announces 'Defection' *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
New Television Channel Begins Transmissions *[Omdurman TV]* 26
Al-Turabi Interviewed on Carlos, Terrorism, Training *[London AL-WASAT 13 Nov]* 26
Foreign Minister Begins Visit to China *[Omdurman Radio]* 27
Returns Home From Visit *[Omdurman Radio]* 28
Speaker Calls For 'Serious' Dialogue With Egypt *[Omdurman Radio]* 28
Talks With IMF Mission End at Finance Ministry *[Omdurman Radio]* 28

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Gulf Representatives End Meeting, Stress Cooperation *[AFP]* 29
GCC Trade Ministers Discuss Cooperation in Riyadh *[Riyadh Radio]* 29

Kuwait

Ministers Welcome Security Council Resolution *[KUNA]* 29
Finance Minister Denies Plan To Devaluate Dinar *[KUNA]* 29

Saudi Arabia

Clinton Seen Trying To Save Political Future *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Nov]* 30

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Invited To Manama GCC Summit *[WAKH]* 30

IRAQ

Radio Reports UN Statement on Kuwait Recognition *[Baghdad Radio]* 31
Al-Sahhaf on Blockade, U.S. Plans, Kuwaiti POW's *[INA]* 31
Minister Views Deterioration in Transport Sector *[INA]* 32
Minister Receives French Railroad Delegation *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
Kurd Autonomous Region Council To Meet 5 Dec *[AL-'IRAQ 1 Nov]* 32
Two Kuwaiti Women 'Repatriated' by ICRC *[INA]* 33
21-31 Oct Airspace 'Violations' Protested to UN *[Baghdad Radio]* 33

ISRAEL

Rabin Comments on 'Arafat Remarks, PLO Elections *[HA'ARETZ 17 Nov]* 34
Further on Rabin Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 34
'Official Protest' Submitted to PA Over Speeches *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
'Urayqat: Rabin Attitude May Cause Talks' Collapse *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Shahal on Government Policy Toward Orient House *[HA'ARETZ 10 Nov]* 35
Sarid: Talk of Dialogue With Hamas Weakens PA *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Israeli Arab Community Warns of 'Intifadah' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Attorney Says Legislation Needed on Land Exchanges *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Nov]* 36
Editorial Urges 'Knocking Off' Extremist Leaders *[MA'ARIV 13 Nov]* 36
Knesset Requires 'Tighter' Control of Army, Wiretaps *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Nov]* 37
Construction Sped Up on Electronic Fence Around Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Study Alleges Torture of Muslim Prisoners *[London THE INDEPENDENT 17 Nov]* 37
Lubrani Critical of U.S. Economic Ties With Iran *[HA'ARETZ 17 Nov]* 38
'Source': U.S. Election Results Should Nudge Syria *[HA'ARETZ 13 Nov]* 38
U.S. Reportedly Not To Press for NPT Membership *[HA'ARETZ 15 Nov]* 39
Commentator Fears Anti-Israel Bent in New Congress *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Nov]* 39
Police Minister Meets With Iraqi Oppositionist *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
Austria's Klestil Addresses Knesset *[Vienna DER STANDARD 16 Nov]* 40
Shahal Urges Quick Return of Unit in Haiti *[MA'ARIV 17 Nov]* 41

JORDAN

Israeli Delegation Arrives in Amman for Talks 42
To Discuss Ties, Embassies, Land *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Nov]* 42
Foreign Ministry Official Arrives *[Amman Radio]* 42
Official: No Israeli Request for Embassy Site *[AL-DUSTUR 17 Nov]* 42
Officials End Talks, Agree on Committees *[Amman Radio]* 42
Exportation of Tomatoes to Israel Allowed *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Nov]* 42
Al-'Anani on Boycott *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Nov]* 43
Regulations for Travel to Israel Detailed *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Nov]* 43
No Change in Tourist Site Fee for Israelis *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Nov]* 44
Israel Reportedly To Expand Settlements *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 15 Nov]* 44
Columnist: Peace Demands Removal of Settlements *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Nov]* 45
Foreign Affairs Committee Welcomes Bosnian Decision *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Nov]* 45
Ba'th, Pan-Arab Action Front Set Up Joint Committee *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Nov]* 46
Attack of Newspaper Offices Thwarted *[Amman Radio]* 46

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Receives Second Clinton Message in Week *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Buwayz on Meeting With Israelis, Bush's Visit *[VOL]* 47
Dallul Opposes Reopening U.S. Marine Bombing Case *[MENA]* 47
Syria's Views on Marine Bombing Case Said Sought *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 47
Effects of U.S. Decision on Bosnian Embargo Seen *[AL-SAFIR 12 Nov]* 48

SYRIA

Al-Ahmar Speech for Corrective Movement Aniversary *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Damascus TV: Jordan Ending Israel Economic Boycott 51
Paper: Israel Works Against U.S. Peace Efforts *[Damascus Radio]* 51

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Air Force Strikes Hekmatyar Base in Lowgar *[Kabul Radio]* 52
Government Planes Bomb Civilian Areas in Kabul *[Message of Freedom]* 52
Foreign Minister Meets Iranian, Pakistani Envoys *[Kabul Radio]* 52

Iran

Foreign Ministry Rebuts Newspaper Accusation *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 6 Nov]* 52
Unofficial Dealing in Foreign Currency Banned *[Tehran TV]* 54
Oil Minister Speaks on Petrochemical Industry *[IRNA]* 54
Azeri Oil Deal Viewed As 'Politically Significant' *[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 14 Nov]* .. 54
First ECO-UN Meeting on Transportation Opens *[IRNA]* 54
IRNA, AZER-TAJ News Agencies To Cooperate *[IRNA]* 55
'Slump' in UK Trade, Diplomatic Ties Reported *[IRNA]* 55
Scientific-Technical Agreement With Russia Signed *[Tehran International]* 55
Peace Efforts Praised at Meeting With Tajik Leader *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Official Seeks Expanded Relations With Turkey *[IRNA]* 56
Velayati, Turkish Minister Discuss Bosnian Crisis *[IRNA]* 56
Bosnia Asks For Continued Assistance *[IRNA]* 56
Ministry Sees Israeli 'Bid To Mar' Foreign Ties *[IRNA]* 56
Grand Ayatollah's Health Condition 'Improving' *[IRNA]* 57
New TV News Bulletin To Begin 24 Nov *[Tehran TV]* 57

Nepal

Midterm House of Representatives Elections Held 57
Elections Conclude 'Peacefully' *[Kathmandu Radio]* 57
Communists Lead Early Returns *[Delhi Radio]* 57
Observers Claim Irregularities *[AFP]* 58

Pakistan

Security for U.S., Indian Diplomats Increased *[DAWN]* 58
Palestinian Qaddumi Pays 3-Day Visit 58
To Discuss Ties, Islamic Summit *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Cooperation Protocol Signed *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Paper Publishes Joint Protocol *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 17 Nov]* 59
Qaddumi Meets Bhutto, Ali *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Editorial Views Recognition of Israel *[THE FRONTIER POST 17 Nov]* 59
Nawaz Sharif's Father Arrested on Fraud Charges *[Islamabad TV]* 60
Released on 'Humanitarian Grounds' *[Islamabad Radio]* 60

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on Iraq-Kuwait Issue, Mideast Market

NC1611142994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that Iraq's recognition of Kuwait could be a prelude toward purifying Arab atmospheres and restoring Arab solidarity.

In an interview to appear in the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR on Friday 18 November, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid voiced his regrets that no progress or positive results have been achieved with regard to the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. He said that if Iraq considers them as missing, let it then present the relevant documents, because the atmosphere is suitable and tension has been eliminated.

To a question about the possibility of visiting Iraq, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that it all depends on circumstances.

Asked his opinion on dealing with the Middle East market, the Arab League secretary general said that if we are to cooperate in the field of setting up economic projects without solving the political problems we would be putting the cart before the horse. He pointed out that any Middle East arrangement that would include Israel should not be made at the expense of Arab relations.

To another question on promoting the Arab League, the secretary general said that the voting process will be modified. He said that two thirds of the votes are needed on some issues. He denied that the issue of headquarters will be included in the modification, stressing that this issue has become untouchable in view of Egypt's leading role.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that a draft law concerning an Arab court of justice will be submitted for endorsement.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Nov

NC1311042094

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 8 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Government Rebuked Over Flood Disaster
2. Gynecologist Defends Female Circumcision
3. Swipe Against President Seen in Reader's Letter
4. Fears Voiced About Revival of Ancient Egyptian Character
5. Brotherhood Figure Encourages Sarajevans
6. Assault on Mahfuz Said Exploited by Newspapers
7. Journalist Prescribes Ways of Facing Western Competition
8. Columnist Sees No Prosperity After Casablanca Summit
9. Security Forces 'Counterterrorism' Drive Criticized
10. Faith Seen as Prerequisite for Military Success

Government Rebuked Over Flood Disaster

This issue is largely devoted to reports about the effects of the recent floods in Upper Egypt, written in a tone critical of the government. A sample of the headlines reads: "In Upper Egypt: Tens of Thousands Without Shelter...And Government Aid Has Not Reached Them," "In Qina Governorate, Houses of Poor Demolished in Luxor, Qus, Qift...Government Stands Impotent," "Floods Destroyed 20,000 Homes, left 100,000 People Homeless; After Seven Days Water, Electricity, Telephone Grids Still Out of Order." A Commentary by Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn bears the title: "Catastrophe is Natural...But Shortcomings Are Not."

The paper carries a total of 22 stories about the flood disasters, three of which refer to the Labor Party's efforts to help the flood victims.

An editorial on page 1 by the chief editor, bearing the headline "An Unfortunate Remark by President Mubarak!," takes issue with the president for blaming opposition newspapers for their prominent reporting on the disaster and criticizing the opposition parties for not extending material aid to citizens. The writer reminds the president of a "military order" that he issued after the 1992 earthquake banning the collection of donations by political parties. Nonetheless, a frontline report says that "the Professional Associations' Coordination Committee in Asyut, in cooperation with the Physician Association's Humanitarian Relief Committee, distributed 1,200 blankets to some of the victims and gave food and clothing to the citizens of submerged villages."

A 250-word commentary by Mahmud Bakri on page 7 urges Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi to resign because of his "consistent failure in and disregard for the public's problems." The commentary carries the title: "Depart, Man!"

A cartoon on page 11 shows a personified Egypt, in the form of a map of the country, with a head and limbs, rebuking a blood-soaked Prime Minister Sidqi and telling him: "Upper Egypt's Bloodshed is Your Responsibility, Sidqi."

Page 7 is full of reports bearing such headlines as "The Smell of Death Dominates Durunkah's Ruins" and "60,000 Citizens Left in Open...Do Not Find Crumb of Bread."

Gynecologist Defends Female Circumcision

In the newspaper's letters-to-the-editor section "AL-SHA'B Mailbox" on page 11, a female gynecologist, Dr.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Zaynab Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahman, defends female circumcision and explains that the reason this practice comes under attack as a "barbaric" Muslim tradition is because some "ignorant midwives and barbers who act as folk surgeons make too deep an incision."

In a 300-word letter, 'Abd-al-Rahman says that when properly and hygienically performed, female circumcision is commendable not only because religion encourages it but because it safeguards chastity and discourages masturbation. Also, in the manner prescribed by religion, it can be "viewed as an operation enhancing beauty and femininity and ensuring good hygiene."

The gynecologist offers to do the operation free of charge during religious festivals.

Swipe Against President Seen in Reader's Letter

Another letter to the editor on page 11 is significant because it is an indirect swipe against President Mubarak, who is not named in the letter. The writer, Mahmud al-Khudari, a chemist from Alexandria, protests the current "brouhaha" about the great credit attributed to the first air strike against Israel for the October 1973 "victory." He says that this is an "intolerable affair."

Major General Husni Mubarak was Air Force commander during the war and the media have recently focused mainly on this aspect of the war, highlighting the role played by the Air Force during the 1973 conflict.

The letter writer says the credit should go to Lt. General Sa'd al-Din al-Shadhili, Armed Forces chief of staff during the 1973 war and later a political dissident, whom the state "rewarded" by imprisonment later on.

The writer says much credit should go also to the late Saudi King Faysal, who was later assassinated by a member of his own family because he orchestrated the oil boycott against the West during the war.

The writer says: "While the war itself shook the Zionist entity, King Faysal, may God's mercy be on him, shook the entire European and U.S. entity by banning oil exports to the countries supporting and assisting the Jews and by raising prices. He is deemed a martyr and we beg God to join us with him and the convoy of martyrs on the day of judgment."

Fears Voiced About Revival of Ancient Egyptian Character

In the paper's "Message" corner on page 9, Mahmud—surname of writer is indistinct because of a printing-ink smudge—discusses in a 1,000-word article entitled "Egyptianism, Sectarianism, Nubianism...Formulas That Threaten Egypt's Security!" what he sees as an attempt to undermine Egypt's Arab and Islamic character.

The writer says this trend is not new but goes back to the nineteenth century. He criticizes nineteenth and early twentieth century intellectuals who promoted the "amputation" of Egypt from the "Caliphate state" [Ottoman Empire] and encouraged "obedience" to the British High Commissioner. He reproaches the well-known late author Dr. Taha Husayn for advocating separation of politics from religion and his call for the revival of "pharaohism." He chides another author, Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid, who apparently regarded the Arabs as alien intruders in Egypt, like the Turks and Circassians and advocated "pure Egyptianism."

The writer says a "new scheme" is afoot to implement the Sudanese model in Egypt's Nubia district, including a civil war and a secession of the south.

He writes: "We have here two important events that might corroborate our view. The first is a seminar at the American University of Cairo under the guise of debating Nubian literature. What is peculiar is that two Nubian litterateurs, Idris 'Ali, and Hajjaj Adul stood up and urged the United Nations to intervene and save Nubia's heritage. A strange coincidence that might prove significant is a report published by AL-AHRAM on 3 November 1994 about the deportation of a U.S. tourist called Sam Fortaine who claimed to be King of Nubia and declared that he had read the history of the grandfathers and came to Aswan to take over power and be installed king of the ancient land of Nubia. Fortaine said he had a plan to reconstruct Nubia and possessed sufficient funds to restore ancient Nubia's glory."

Noting that he does not believe in political coincidence, the writer asks: "Why was the seminar held at the same time that the U.S. tourist made his claim? Is there a connection between the two events? Egypt's experience with the West leaves no room to assume that 'good intentions' are at work or that the two events were coincidental. Perhaps the coming days will expose more about the conspiracy's magnitude."

An unattributed 600-word article on the same page called "Siwah Cultural Festival at American University... Why?" has a similar theme and declares that the festival mentioned in the headline seeks to "strengthen and bring to the fore the distinctive and different character of Siwah's residents from the rest of the Egyptian people."

Brotherhood Figure Encourages Sarajevans

Ahmad al-Malat, one of two deputies of the Muslim Brotherhood's general guide, writes a 2,000-word article on page 5 under the headline: "God Is Your Succorer, O Sarajevo." He describes a visit he made to Sarajevo during which he met with President Alija Izetbegovic and viewed the hardships of the city's citizens. The article criticizes the Serbs and exhorts the Bosnian Muslims to be steadfast.

Describing what he saw during his trip, al-Malat says: "O Sarajevo, I saw you as a fortress of Islam still standing amid the bleak forests of idolatry and paganism,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

repulsing the conspirators, and infusing God's spirit into the populace, making them find joy in death and sing the hymns of martyrdom."

Assault on Mahfuz Said Exploited by Newspapers

An unattributed 600-word article on page 5 criticizes the "magnitude and various forms of sensational exploitation of the assault on the distinguished novelist Najib Mahfuz." The unknown writer says that this exploitation was carried out by more than one party and for more than one motive in a manner "not beneficial to the victim of the assault or the public good."

The writer voices displeasure with some newspapers for seizing the opportunity to publish the full text of Mahfuz' controversial novel "Children of Gabalawi," banned by the religious institute of al-Azhar since 1959, without waiting to "dissipate the interpretations that were drawn from it without the conscious intention of its author, according to what he himself announced."

Blaming the authorities for failing to protect the novelist, the article writer says: "The state's security apparatus allowed him to frequent a public coffee house in al-Tahrir Square, where he held a literary salon on a specific day every week. With his customary decorum and amiability, Mahfuz allowed the movie director 'Ali Salim, who recently returned from Israel and published a book about his stay there, to attend the salon and join in the discussions. He even used to bring some Israeli guests along with him, a fact that was published by several Egyptian newspapers together with photographs. This should have alerted security officials, who should have warned Mahfuz or asked Salim not to attend Mahfuz' salon, so that his attendance might not be misunderstood or provoke rumors about the distinguished author."

Journalist Prescribes Ways of Facing Western Competition

A 2,500-word article by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar on page 12, entitled "The Weapon of Confrontation: Arab-Islamic Civilization and National Products," draws a parallel between Casablanca's recent economic summit and the Balfour Declaration by which Great Britain promised the Jews a national home in Palestine 77 years ago. The writer says that the British promise in 1917 sought to keep the Arabs divided while the Casablanca summit is designed to seize the Arabs' natural resources.

Discussing Israel's foreseen regional role, 'Umar writes that Israel will be asked to help safeguard the current Arab regimes and fight off "Islamic terrorism."

He warns against Western cultural and economic inroads into the Arab world and says: "Vis-a-vis this new economic and cultural (that is, in matters pertaining to everyday life) assault, the front of forces opposed to Israel and to the Western cultural invasion will expand and will certainly include nationalist economic conglomerates that will be aware of the danger that this [Casablanca] agreement poses to their markets."

He foresees the following era: "This is a totally new stage in our region and the world. Our weapons during this stage will be a humanitarian, Arab, Islamic civilization; non-foreign, nationalist goods; and an agricultural system that will provide us with sustenance, freedom, and independence."

Columnist Sees No Prosperity After Casablanca

Writing on the same note as the previous article, Muslim Brotherhood columnist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus says he doubts that Casablanca's economic summit will bring prosperity to the Arabs, just as the Egyptian peace with Israel failed to bring prosperity to the Egyptians.

In a 600-word article bearing the headline "We Have a Hangup About Prosperity" on page 12, 'Abd-al-Quddus says: "In Mubarak's era we have heard about gigantic and unprecedented achievements. We have also heard about the great Renaissance! [concept raised by Mubarak in several speeches]. We searched for this in actual fact and sought to find if it improved the common man's life, but to no avail. To whom it may concern: Prosperity will not be achieved through cooperation with the Zionist enemy or by begging from the United States. Prosperity comes when decent regimes rule that are affiliated with the people and seek the nation's progress. The first condition to bring this about is to give the people the liberty to elect their rulers. Regrettably, every Arab country suffers under a life-long ruler who smothers it. The regimes characterized by the slogan 'We devote our souls and blood to you, O leader' are not the sort of governments that bring prosperity to their people. Please stop talking about prosperity. We have a hangup about it."

Security Forces 'Counterterrorism' Drive Criticized

In the "Banned News" section on page 5, the paper publishes the following brief item under the headline "The Terrorism of the Security Forces!":

"A senior security official in Qina Governorate issued an order to detain the mayors of al-Shaykhiyah and Khuzam villages because they had refused to hand over lists of terrorists to state security detectives so that they might later be physically eliminated amid the sugar plantations. The 'security' official asked that any individuals at all (!) be handed over. 'What is important is for us to appear to work and fight terrorism'!! Khuzam's mayor was forced to hand over himself, his son, and his chief village sentry to the general, telling him: "O Pasha, we are terrorists. Do whatever you wish with us."

The item goes on to describe that al-Shaykhiyah's mayor did the same thing. It also says that an individual called Muhammad Mutawalli, who was killed by the security forces in Suhaj on 18 September on the grounds that he

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

killed a village sentry and a church sentry in Qift, turned out to have been in police custody prior to the shooting. The item wonders how he could have been killed in a police ambush if he was already in custody.

The item ends with the words: "We present these facts to Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi. What does he think of them?"

Faith Seen as Prerequisite for Military Success

The well-known preacher Muhammad al-Ghazali, in his usual "This Is Our Religion" column on page 12, reviews Egypt's 1967 military defeat before Israel and blames former President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir for it. Recalling how he and other preachers were asked to address the troops on the front to raise their morale during the 1973 war, he says it was only religious faith that made the Egyptian Army's successful crossing of the Suez Canal possible. He regrets that "the enemies of God and his prophet are numerous today."

Al-Ghazali remarks: "Some of them strongly hate the call: God is Great. It is such people who are the cause of the current collapse of the Arab front, the front that does not care about the al-Aqsa Mosque or the fate of millions of refugees."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Holds PLO Meeting in Gaza; Turnout Low

NC1611142894 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 16 (AFP)—The PLO's executive committee met for the first time in autonomous Gaza but a poor turnout highlighted Yasir 'Arafat's fragile support within his own organisation.

Only eight out of its 18 members took part in the session which 'Arafat had been forced to delay because of lack of a quorum.

Samir Ghawshah, one of those who did attend, said the meeting was finally able to go ahead because a two-thirds quorum was reached—taking into account two members who had resigned and four others frozen their membership since the committee was elected in 1991.

However, Sulayman al-Najjab, a member who boycotted the session which ended in the early hours of Wednesday in Gaza City, told AFP: "The meeting was illegal. All this only serves to highlight the differences and conflicts within the PLO."

The executive committee praised the work of the Palestinian Authority since self-rule was launched in Gaza and Jericho in May and pledged support for the autonomy accords with Israel in a two-page statement. It also reaffirmed the aim of making Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem the capital of a Palestinian state.

The head of the PLO's political department, Faruq Qaddumi, who is based in Tunis, said it was premature to hold the meeting in Gaza while "the Israeli enemy has still not withdrawn from all Palestinian territory."

Four Jordan-based members, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, 'Abdallah Hurani, Taysir Khalid and Elia Khuri, said they were boycotting the meeting for the same reason.

Before autonomy was launched the executive committee met at the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Apart from 'Arafat and Ghawshah, the committee meeting was attended by Muhammad al-Nashashibi, Yasir 'Amr, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Jawad al-Ghusayn, Jamal al-Surani and 'Ali Ishaq.

A ninth member, CEOLP [PLO Executive Committee], Mahmud Isma'il, came to Gaza from abroad but did not attend the talks.

Senior Tunis-based member, Mahmud 'Abbas, also know as Abu-Mazin, who signed the September 13, 1993 Declaration of Principle on autonomy in Washington, also stayed away.

'Arafat has staked his future on the success of the autonomy deal, which opponents within his own ranks say sold the Palestinians short.

The committee, which dictates the PLO's day-to-day policy, said it would meet again on December 1 without saying where.

It criticised "Israeli attempts to delay application of the accords" on autonomy and called for an Israeli army withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and staging of elections.

The committee also denounced continued Jewish settlement in the territories—particularly Jerusalem—and restrictions on Palestinian workers in Israel.

The statement made no mention of a meeting of the Palestine National Council, the top PLO body, which 'Arafat had promised to hold in Gaza in order to erase calls in the organisation's charter for the destruction of Israel.

Ghawshah Comments on Meeting

JN1611164094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Interview with Samir Ghawshah, PA Official and member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the PA [Palestinian Authority]: The Executive Committee held a meeting in Gaza last night. There are some question marks on the legality of the meeting. Was it an official meeting or just a meeting of members?

[Ghawshah] It was an official PLO meeting, and the conferees discussed whether the meeting was legal or not. Brother Jamal al-Surani, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, and brother Yasir 'Amr, minister of education of the PA, both lawyers, also attended. In view of the compelling reasons and as several members of the PLO Executive Committee have either resigned or frozen their memberships, the meeting was considered legal when two thirds of the current 12 members attended.

[Mu'addi] What were the issues discussed during that meeting?

[Ghawshah] The discussion focused basically on political aspects of the Arab, international, and Palestinian situation. The conferees reviewed several political developments, especially those pertaining to the peace process. They also discussed some organizational aspects and decided that the PLO Executive Committee would resume its work early in December.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Ghawshah: What were the contents of the final statement issued by the meeting?

[Ghawshah] The final statement says that the PLO Executive Committee met under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]; that the Executive Committee salutes the masses, the martyrs, and the prisoners; and that the meeting was held on an important national day, the sixth anniversary of the declaration of Palestinian independence. The statement refers to several issues, including the peace process and the progress it has made so far, as well as the performance of the PA, which has made some progress despite difficulties. The statement also points to the Israeli Government's procrastination and stresses the need to strictly comply with the Declaration of Principles, particularly during the transitional phase. The declaration calls for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the West Bank, holding elections, transferring all remaining powers, and reconsidering military laws, as well as other laws. The statement then stresses the need to promote relations with fraternal Arab countries and to solve secondary differences, as well as the responsibility of the international community toward the Palestinian people. It also calls for activating the PLO's institutions, including the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, and all PLO departments, and announces that the PLO will resume its work early next month.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Thank you very much.

[Ghawshah] You are welcome.

Meeting Issues Detailed

JN1611174294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat last night chaired the first PLO Executive Committee meeting to be held in the homeland.

The Committee reviewed a number of current political and organizational issues, including the march of the Palestinian National Authority since it assumed its responsibilities.

The Committee emphasized that despite the extraordinary and difficult circumstances of this march, a number of important achievements have been made.

The Committee added that national duty calls for continuing determined and persistent work to complete the formation of the Authority's establishments, and to build them on sound national and democratic bases.

The Committee emphasized its rejection of the Israeli policy of procrastination and obstruction, and stressed the importance of precise and honest implementation of the agreements in a manner that ensures the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation army from the West Bank, free and comprehensive elections, and the transfer of all authorities to the National Authority [NA].

The PLO Executive Committee also emphasized the importance of firmly confronting the continued settlement activities, especially in holy Jerusalem, and the policy of isolation, siege, and obstruction of economic activities.

The Executive Committee emphasized the importance of developing relations between the PLO and the NA, which represents it in the homeland, and all sisterly Arab countries, and to overcome marginal differences.

The committee also stressed the international community's responsibility to continue its support for the NA and fulfill all obligations that have been made in the past. It emphasized the importance of activating the leading PLO institutions, including the Executive Committee and the Central Council.

'Arafat Criticizes 'Some' Israeli Politicians

JN1611135194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 94 p 32

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, QUDS PRESS—Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, has said that Israeli parties are trying to obstruct peace. He said Israel banned the delivery of rocks from Hebron to Gaza, intended to build an emergency port. He added: This is part of the haughtiness and way of thinking of some (Israeli) politicians as well as intelligence and military men who do not want peace.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Addressing the inauguration of a workshop by the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, held under the slogan "The Emergency Revival Project," 'Arafat said: There are some who do not only try to obstruct peace, but also want the Palestinians to pay the price of peace.

'Arafat wondered angrily: In whose favor are we placed under siege whenever there is a problem here or there? Why has the Paris donors conference failed? Is the donors' aid linked to the political situation? He indicated that problems always occur between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. 'Arafat said the extremists are trying to check the progress of peace, stressing that the collective punishment imposed by Israel conflicts with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the international Geneva Conventions.

'Arafat said: Patience has limits and added: I will remain silent over all promises, but in the end I will hold a news conference and reveal everything because I do not know what to say to the Palestinian child going to sleep on an empty stomach.

He appealed to the international community to understand that the Palestinians are a great people. He said the situation in Gaza is difficult as the rate of unemployment is 58 percent and students are forced to study in classes of 65 and in two shifts. The Palestinian leader said the Palestinians are not a minority, but a main Middle East pillar.

'Arafat called on all without exception to join the insitutions of the national authority, the PLO, and the state of Palestine. He said: We welcome every constructive idea and every opposition seeking to support this march. He added: We need the efforts of all and the help, support, and participation of all because one hand alone cannot clap; all hands together can cause a huge storm. He hoped that Palestinians will celebrate the next independence day in Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine.

'Arafat Orders Release of 30 Islamic Jihad Activists

TA1611181694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police have released 30 Islamic Jihad activists who were arrested in recent days. The release came on the direct orders of Yasir 'Arafat. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the release was ordered for Palestinian independence day which was marked yesterday.

PA Official Comments on Ties With Jordan

NC1211170094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 12 Nov (MENA)—Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, presidential affairs minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA] [title as received], has stated that the PA wants good relations with Jordan and does not want to damage these relations out of concern for the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples' interests.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent in Gaza, he said that contacts are continuing between the PA and the Jordanian Government. He noted that preparations are under way to hold a summit between Jordan's King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the removal of the obstacles impeding the two sides' relations and to strengthen them, especially the economic ones, and to facilitate travel and crossing movement from the Palestinian territories to Jordan, particularly after the opening of crossing points between Jordan and Israel.

Abu-Zayidah Comments on 'Arafat Remarks

TA1611154294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the PA's Israel desk, by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman on 16 November; place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dan] Good morning, Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the Israel desk at the Palestinian Authority [PA].

[Abu-Zayidah] Good morning.

[Dan] We wanted to talk to you about the utterances of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the Nobel Prize laureate, who spoke yesterday of liberating the land from the Zionist enemy. Where do we go from here?

[Abu-Zayidah] I heard his remarks, and I think IDF Radio is to blame for the brouhaha that followed, because IDF Radio was the first to misquote Chairman 'Arafat.

[Dan] What do you mean, misquote?

[Abu-Zayidah] First of all, 'Arafat did not speak of a Zionist enemy, he spoke of the Israeli enemy. Politically, these two terms are very far apart.

[Friedman] Are we still the enemy then?

[Abu-Zayidah] 'Arafat did not say that in his speech, he was merely quoting from a PNC [Palestine National Council] resolution of 1974 which called for the establishment of the Palestinian authority on every strip of land from which Israel withdraws, or from liberated land. That was how the resolution referred to the matter. 'Arafat told his audience that after 20 years, we received a strip of land on which we established the PA. In what way is that an affront to you or to our mutual trust? What does it matter?

[Friedman] As you know, that PNC resolution clause is still valid today, and Yasir 'Arafat is unable to annul the Palestinian Covenant clauses calling for the annihilation of Israel. Why is it taking you so long, despite the pledge you made in the Oslo declaration?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Abu-Zayidah] 'Arafat has made a pledge to which he remains committed. The question of why is has not been done is appropriate, and the answer is that the clause cannot be annulled by 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee, or the PLO Central Committee. Only the Supreme Palestinian Council can decide to annul it. 'Arafat has been unable to convene the PNC, but if it does convene for the sole purpose of annulling these clauses, the clauses will not be annulled.

[Dan] But 'Arafat has been unable to convene even the PLO Executive Committee.

[Abu-Zayidah] That is not true, that is not true. When 'Arafat announced the first session of the PLO Executive Committee, he knew exactly who would and who would not come.

[Dan] The majority did not come.

[Abu-Zayidah] He knew that the majority would not come, he knew the exact names of those who would and those who would not come. The meeting had a symbolic, not a political value. The attendants of this meeting were not supposed to pass resolutions, and therefore, he did not need a majority. This was a symbolic move which showed that the Executive Committee still exists and is operative.

[Friedman] Mr. Abu-Zayidah, the main problem seems to be 'Arafat's lack of control over the great majority of the Palestinian people, at least formal control.

[Abu-Zayidah] If he was unable to control the Palestinian people, he would not continue another minute in his job. If he did not know that the majority of the Palestinian people are on his side, supporting him, he would not continue even one minute.

[Dan] Is 'Arafat capable of making decisions at this time, when he cannot even convene the Executive Committee?

[Abu-Zayidah] Do not forget that he is head of the PA, and all decisions pertaining to the peace process are made and executed by the PA. He has no problem with that. What worries you, then?

[Friedman] To return to 'Arafat's speech: Although he did not use the full term, he did allude to the theory of the phased annihilation of Israel. He said the first stage is over, and the next will come.

[Abu-Zayidah] The Palestinian people have made a strategic decision. I am telling you quite frankly: The Palestinian decision to establish a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, including East Jerusalem, was actually what yesterday's ceremony was marking.

[Friedman] Will you resort to every means to achieve that?

[Abu-Zayidah] No. No. The Palestinian people have opted for a strategy of peace. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Views Israel's Stance on Accords, Attacks

NC1711085094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has announced that the fifth round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on legislative elections in the Palestinian self-rule areas, scheduled to be held in Cairo on Monday, has been postponed until 29 November.

In statements before leaving Cairo for Gaza today, he said he will chair the Palestinian side at these meetings, which will include several committees according to an agreement reached at the latest meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He added: In the next round and in subsequent rounds we will discuss all the issues, including the Israeli forces redeployment in the West Bank.

He noted that there will be several negotiating committees—one on Palestinian legislative council elections chaired by Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat; a security committee to discuss the Israeli withdrawal from the self-rule areas in the West bank, chaired, on the Palestinian side, by Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya; a committee to take over civilian powers, chaired by lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi; and a legal committee.

Commenting on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad operations against Israel, Sha'th said the Islamic forces in Palestine reject the Israeli occupation and peace with Israel. He added that Israel provides the Islamic forces with a pretext to continue their rejection of peace by its procrastination, not honoring its obligations stipulated in the Declaration of Principles signed between us, and by its attempts to absolve itself of this agreement. Israel, he went on, must understand that the PA will not turn into a jailer of our people's factions to implement Israel's wishes.

Sha'th said: We are committed, we respect our agreement with Israel, and we carry out no acts of violence against Israel. Israel knows this but does not respect the agreement signed with us. It has not implemented the economic accord or the security accord, as there are 6,000 of our detainees still in Israeli jails.

He added that Israel is making the Palestinian people live in a big prison and laying a security cordon around them, as we have noticed. The procedures stipulated in the accords, he noted, have not been completed and thus the PA has no popular support for withdrawing arms from individuals and disarming opposition members.

He stressed that the PA is serious about the peace process and remarked that this does not mean the PA should turn into a tool in Israel's hand to strike the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

opposition. He said the only way to stem violence is through Israel's commitment to the agreement signed with the Palestinians.

PA: Police To Confiscate all Unlicensed Firearms

TA1711115994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Nov 94 p 5

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has recently begun confiscating weapons from Gaza Strip residents, including members of various Palestinian organizations, who are not licensed to carry firearms. This was revealed yesterday by Gaza police commander Ghazi al-Jabali.

Al-Jabali told Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip that the PA explicitly ordered the Palestinian police and security services to confiscate all unlicensed weapons.

From now on, any organization that wants to hold a demonstration or convention will have to receive permission from the Palestinian police three days in advance.

Commentary Emphasizes Important Role of PLO

JN1611212094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Station commentary: "There is no Substitute For the PLO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority some have started to believe that the PLO's role has somewhat receded and been frozen. Some also believed that the National Authority [NA] has taken over the PLO's place and role for good.

Although it is true to say that the PLO institutions such as the Executive Committee and the Central Council have not met for a long time to carry out their required role, it is not true to believe that the PLO has stepped down in favor of the NA, and this was confirmed in the NA's program which remained committed to the PLO institutions as the final authority.

However, the confusion between the NA and the PLO, the relationship of the homeland with the diaspora, and the apprehensions raised by the transition stage prior to the attainment of a definitive solution to the Palestinian cause calls for a responsible pause to tackle all these thorny issues, to answer the questions and increasing apprehensions expressed by the Palestinian people, and to seek successful solutions that will end all paralysis, hesitation, and procrastination.

The present and possible complications should not prevent the initiation of immediate efforts to seek the required way out.

Pushing the PLO to weaker positions will greatly harm the Palestinian people and, specifically, will weaken the people's unity between the homeland and the diaspora.

The PLO is the party destined to be the Palestinian people's spokesman, given that it has been their legitimate and sole representative over the past three decades thanks to its struggle and firm action. The PLO has greatly succeeded in forming the Palestinian people's national identity and has entrenched their unity in a manner that causes admiration on the basis of its national program. The people's solid unity has enabled the PLO to overcome perilous turning points and dark mazes and to emerge from them safely and stronger.

The Palestinian people's unity through the PLO has constituted an important asset for all the past national achievements and gains. The PLO continues to be the decisive factor in what the Palestinian people could achieve in terms of a just solution to their cause through the peace negotiations.

The NA's establishment on Palestinian soil in Gaza and Jericho and the gradual spreading of its authority in the West Bank should be an incentive to further consolidate the PLO's position and role to have it become the solid bridge linking the homeland to the diaspora and to have it emphasize that the DOP, the agreements, and the limited and fumbling applications that followed do not mean in any way whatsoever that the issues dealing with the refugees and displaced and their sufferings have been forgotten, that they will remain the core of the national cause, and that the definitive solution to the Palestinian cause will not leave the issues of the diaspora Palestinians unsolved. The homeland and the state will be the homeland and the state of all the Palestinian people, wherever they may be.

The invigoration of the PLO's role needs further dialogue to chart the initiative that contains the aspired solution after taking the following factors into consideration:

1. The search for a democratic formula that will allow the Palestinians in the homeland to be fully represented in the Palestinian National Council, which is the legislative body and legal authority for the Executive bodies such as the Executive Committee and the NA.

2. The reaffirmation of previous Arab commitments to the effect that the PLO can address its people and take care of their interests without obstruction or interference, as well as allowing the Palestinian people to carry out free elections for the PLO's institutions.

3. The initiation of an intra-Palestinian dialogue in the homeland and the diaspora to establish new bases for the PLO's institutions and bodies and for a broad national coalition system inspired by the major developments and changes that have blown up the majority of the old bases such as the quota system, unanimity, and the factional military system that has shackled the PLO's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

structure and prevented it from responding to the new tasks. The new system that will be established should respect the majority- minority principle, and should deal with the PLO with national responsibility, given that it is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people and not a transient government.

Perhaps the call by brother President Yasir 'Arafat to convene a PLO Executive Committee meeting is a very meaningful step that seeks to consolidate the institutional cover for the diaspora Palestinians and to maintain the living historical evidence of our right and cause in and outside the homeland. This call is a call to all the Palestinian forces and factions and we hope it will receive a positive response to initiate the required dialogue for emerging from the present ossified state and clear retrogradation and replying to the big and strategic questions that are raised by the next stage.

Hamas Official on Dialogue With Israel, PA

NC1311153994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 13 Nov (MENA)—Mahmud al-Zahhar, official spokesman of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], said that the movement welcomes holding a dialogue with Israel to stop mutual acts of assassination, if it would not imply recognition of Israel or the agreements concluded with it.

In a statement he made today to a MENA correspondent in Gaza, al-Zahhar said that the movement also welcomes a dialogue with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA, Palestinian Authority, PA] within the framework of Palestinian unity and each side's adherence to its stance.

He added: Regardless of the reasons, we will not enter into struggles or conflicts with the PNA and will not give Israel the opportunity to split the Palestinian ranks. The dispute with the PNA should not be a barrier because we are one people and have the same objectives. He said: We will not change our principles and we are not ready to obtain ministerial posts in the PNA, but we do not reject participation in the reconstruction process in various fields.

Hamas Activist Shot; Israeli Army Investigates

TA1611115594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khalid (Suwayz), a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist in Tulkarm, was seriously wounded by gunfire this morning in a local market and taken to a hospital for treatment. Palestinian sources claim he was shot by Israeli soldiers disguised as Arabs, but official military sources say they are investigating whether he was involved in a conflict between Palestinian groups. (Suwayz) was one of the Hamas activists deported to Lebanon last year.

Report on Hamas, Islamic Jihad Units

TA1711085394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Nov 94

[Telephone talk between moderators 'Arad Nir and Mikhal Gazit in Tel Aviv and correspondent Eli Bohadana in Gaza—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nir] We have just learned that some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip have joined the Palestinian police force as guardians of the autonomy's moral code. Good morning to our correspondent in Gaza Eli Bohadana.

[Bohadana] Good morning.

[Nir] So what do we know about this Hamas morals unit?

[Bohadana] The Palestinian police have established a new unit comprised exclusively of Hamas activists and fugitives. This unit will be commanded by 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Husa, who was involved in the kidnapping of soldier Ilan Sa'adon and bears a rank equivalent to that of a colonel. The unit was established following contacts and meetings held in recent months between senior officials from the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas leaders. In the course of attempts to bring about a rapprochement between the two parties, the PA officials proposed to establish a unit composed solely of Hamas activists which would deal with moral offenses; however, the Hamas representatives rejected this offer. Hamas nevertheless gave its members permission to join the unit on their own volition with the understanding that they represented only themselves and not Hamas. To the best of our knowledge, 80 Hamas activists have been recruited into the unit so far, including Abu-Husa and (Hadir Nahajas), another senior Hamas leader who was among those deported to Marj al- Zuhur. This unit is meant to incorporate 400 undercover policemen.

[Nir] Does this step by the Palestinian police indicate an attempt to mollify Hamas and tempt them into the PA by offering these jobs?

[Bohadana] Well, I think that the PA is adopting a very simple and clear-cut policy here. By this step, the PA seeks to draw Hamas closer and thus prevent the Islamic movement's activists from undermining its authority.

[Gazit] You also wanted to report the establishment of a new Islamic Jihad suicide unit. What information do we have about that?

[Bohadana] Sources inside the Islamic Jihad have claimed that dozens of volunteers have joined this newly established unit and are prepared to carry out suicide attacks against Israeli targets. The new unit's members vow to sacrifice their lives in order to attack Zionist targets anywhere. The members of this unit, covered in white shrouds, could be seen at the recent demonstrations held by the Islamic Jihad. These people are prepared to carry out kamikaze attacks against Israeli targets. The Islamic Jihad is noted for carrying out such

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

suicide operations, and especially for using car bombs. Most of the attacks carried out by Islamic Jihad members were suicide operations. This phenomenon is not new but the propensity of radical Islamic activists to consciously join this new, organized unit is quite frightening.

[Gazit] Are all these activities being carried out in the open, to the best of your knowledge?

[Bohadana] Well, one could watch the Islamic Jihad demonstrators on television wandering around freely and threatening to destroy Israel.

[Gazit] Do the prospective candidates for suicide attacks also reveal their identity?

[Bohadana] Clearly, they do not reveal their identity. They cover themselves in shrouds to hide their identity.

[Nir] What is the attitude of the PA and the Palestinian police toward them?

[Bohadana] The Palestinian police cannot take any steps at all because it does not know the identity of these people. The Palestinian police recently conducted a wave of arrests and approximately 170 Islamic Jihad activists were detained. The police have also taken a series of steps against this organization, which despite all the media coverage is smaller than Hamas.

[Nir] Thank you, Eli Bohadana.

Islamic Jihad: Police Gave Bomber Secret Burial

NC1211212894 Paris AFP in English 2025 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 12 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad movement charged Saturday [12 November] that Palestinian police secretly buried the remains of a suicide bomber who killed three Israeli soldiers.

At a wake for Hisham Isma'il Hamad, the group accused PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat of "declaring a dirty war against Islam."

Hamad, a member of the Islamic fundamentalist movement, blew himself up on Friday, killing three Israeli soldiers near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

At the funeral of an Islamic Jihad leader killed in a car-bomb blast on November 2 blamed on Israel, youths booed 'Arafat out of a mosque when he arrived to pay his last respects.

The Palestinian "authority gang" has no right to "place the remains of Hamad in black bags. This is a crime," the group said in a statement read out over a microphone.

Hamad's brother, Marwan, told AFP that his family had not been notified of the burial, and only found out when a witness told them about it.

A witness at Gaza City's main cemetery said security forces gave a gravedigger three black plastic bags to bury earlier Saturday. They told him the bags contained the remains of Hamad's body, Mahir Salih said.

Police, who were not available for comment on the secret burial, have cracked down on Jihad following the Netzarim blast, arresting at least 100 of the group's members.

Groups Condemn Detention of Islamic Jihad Members

TA1611181894 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Samir Hamtu]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—In two separate statements, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] condemned the campaign of detentions carried out by the Palestinian Authority [PA] against members of the Islamic Jihad Movement.

The PFLP said that it views with gravity the PA's continued campaign of detentions, which has led to the arrest of more than 150 followers of the Islamic Jihad Movement.

The PFLP called "primarily" on the PA and all political forces to realize the grave peril of Palestinian infighting, which must be avoided.

The PFLP called on the PA's security organs not to obey the wishes of the Israelis.

For its part, the DFLP stressed that these arrests were made against the political background of opposition to the Oslo-Cairo agreement and the existence of settlements in the Gaza Strip. The DFLP called for the immediate release of all detainees and emphasized that these arrests in the ranks of the opposition clearly manifest the depth of the impasse to which the adherents of the Oslo-Cairo agreement have reached.

Al-Rujub Denies Anti-Israel Remarks by Security

TA1711094494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian preventive security service in Jericho, told IDF Radio that he doubts the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will operate inside the Gaza Strip and Jericho in an attempt to stop Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist attacks. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz spoke with al-Rujub:

[Begin recording] [Yokhpaz] Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian security services in the West Bank, yesterday watched an interview program on Israeli television from his Jericho office with avid interest. In the interview, moderator Nisim Mish'al interviewed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon, whom al-Rujub described as a dictator and demagogue. Afterwards, Col. al-Rujub commented on the events of the day and said that Palestinian officers or soldiers in Jericho had never vowed to conquer Ashdod, 'Akko, and Haifa. When we asked al-Rujub whether he had not seen the reports from Jericho, he replied that these were baseless lies.

[Al-Rujub] None of the people in charge on our behalf ever said anything like that. Should we speculate on the remarks of each and every lunatic on the street? Some Israelis are too quick to pounce on these reports.

[Yokhpaz] Al-Rujub prefers to diplomatically deny reports that Palestinian security personnel made remarks that were extremely hostile to Israel. As for the participation of 24 fugitives in courses run by the Palestinian security service, al-Rujub for the first time reveals that this is part of a prearranged Palestinian plan. We preferred to bring the dangerous fugitives to Jericho and recruit them to the Palestinian police or security services so as to be able to supervise their actions and prevent them from undermining the peace process.

[Al-Rujub] These are people who used to fight the occupation and we convinced them to come to Jericho and honor the agreement. I think this was not an easy thing to achieve and I view it as it a very positive development.

[Yokhpaz] Al-Rujub said that the Palestinian security service personnel were trained to impose law and order in Jericho and the Gaza Strip. In future, they will uphold law and order in the other West Bank towns. We do not need to prepare for the possibility of Israel invading the Gaza Strip and Jericho. We do not fear such a scenario and it will never happen. [end recording]

Frayj Comments on Transfer of Power in Tourism

JN1011182094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities in the Palestinian National Authority said today that the Israeli decision to transfer power in the tourism field in the West Bank to the National Authority [NA] excludes several touristic sites, as well as the antiquities department and the Public Parks.

Frayj said that the transfer of power in the tourism field consists of transferring control of the Tourism Office in the West Bank and $75,000 from the tourism budget to the NA treasury.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Copies of Biggest Daily Seized in Press Crackdown

NC1611144394 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nov 16 (AFP)—Algeria's military-backed government, which is fighting an armed Islamic insurrection, on Wednesday [16 November] seized copies of Algeria's biggest daily in Arabic, EL KHABAR, pursuing a crackdown on the press.

EL KHABAR's editor-in-chief, Omar Ourtilane, told AFP that security officials had stopped the presses in Algiers after 25,000 copies had been printed and also seized copies at Oran in the west and Constantine in the east.

The government gave him no explanation for preventing distribution of the independent newspaper, which has a circulation of 130,000, Ourtilane said, and no comment was immediately available from the authorities.

The seizure followed the suspension of publication of three other papers by the regime in the past eight days.

The media is also under constant pressure from the Islamists. No fewer than eighteen Algerian journalists have been assassinated in terror attacks generally blamed on the extremists since the guerrilla war began in 1992.

A Franco-Algerian journalist and a French reporter have also been killed, along with many scores of teachers, doctors, civil servants, lawyers and foreigners accused by fundamentalist gangs of collaborating with the regime.

On Tuesday, the director of the new French-language weekly LE LIBRE, Hichem Aboud, announced that the ministry of the interior had banned his publication for an indefinite period.

Aboud said he and two members of the editorial staff faced legal proceedings for "publishing news which endangered public order, public safety and the overriding interests of the country".

The French-language daily EL-UMMA, which is close to the Islamic movement, and the Arabic-language satirical weekly EL WAJ'H EL-AKHAR were both banned for a month on similar grounds on November 8.

The authorities said the two papers "echoed and passed on tendentious and subversive reports excusing crime".

On November 3, Communications Minister Mohamed Benamar Zerhouni issued a warning to the press, accusing some newspapers of giving publicity to "criminals and killers".

He said that the government would enforce its press code issued in 1989, which most editors and newspaper owners consider extremely repressive.

In another development, Justice Minister Mohamed Takiya said Islamic extremists cut the throats of eight common criminals they were holding hostage during a prison mutiny.

In an interview published Wednesday by the government daily EL MOUDJAHID, Takiya confirmed that the Moslem activists had tried to break out of the jail in Berrouaghia, 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Algiers, overnight Saturday.

Informed sources earlier said 11 people had been killed, while an official statement from the security services on Tuesday said there were "a few wounded and a few wounded" among the mutineers and three warders had been injured.

Takiya said security forces used tear gas to put down the mutiny on Monday after more than 40 hours of negotiations between the fundamentalist prisoners and prison authorities.

"About 800 detainees survived unhurt," he added.

The war began after the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of independent Algeria's first free general elections, which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Algeria has been ruled by army-backed secular regimes since it fought its way to independence from France in 1962.

Reason for Seizure Given

LD1611192894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A source close to the Interior Ministry said that the newspapers Al-HIWAR and AL-WATAN had been suspended. The former, in Arabic, is suspended for six months, and the latter, in French, is suspended for 15 days. As for the newspaper AL-KHABAR (Arabic), its issue for today has been seized. This measure was taken against these newspapers for publishing information undermining security and public order and for not respecting professional ethics and defending the higher interests of the nation. The source further says that these measures have been taken to maintain security and to preserve the security of property and persons.

Editors Warn Freedom of Press Threatened

LD1711112094 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Algeria the press is in the government's sights. At the beginning of the month the communications minister issued a warning to the press. While he asserted his attachment to freedom of the press, he expressed regret that security information should be the subject of research for pseudo-scoops. Since then the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

seizures and suspensions of newspapers have been on the increase—there have been five in a week. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, the editors of the Algerian private press called for the immediate lifting of the suspension measures and warned in a communique signed by 14 French-language and Arabic-language publications that freedom of the press is being seriously threatened in Algeria.

Fighting in El Bayadh; 50-55 Gendarmes Said Killed

MM1711110894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "55 Gendarmes Killed in 'Group' Attack"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Reliable Algerian sources have told AL-HAYAH that fierce fighting is currently taking place in the El Bayadh area, southwest of Algiers, following an operation launched by the armed Islamic groups [al-jama'at al-islamiyah al-musallahah] against a national gendarmerie division, about 50-55 of whose elements have been killed.

The sources added that units from the Army and the "Special Forces" have moved to the area, which is adjacent to the desert. These forces are launching large-scale combing operations in search of members of the groups, whose losses are unknown. [passage omitted]

Minister: Riot Shows 'Terrorists' Lack of Logic

LD1611135994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] What happened in Berrouaghia [prison] last Sunday [13 November] was further evidence proving that the terrorists, whether they are in prison or on the run, do not subscribe to human logic. By means of fire, sabotage, and assassinations they try to impose their point of view on citizens.

This statement was made by Minister of Justice Mohamed Teguia following the riot attempt that took place in Berrouaghia prison last Sunday and resulted in the killing of eight common right prisoners. In an exclusive interview to EL MOUDJAHID daily, Mr. Mohamed Teguia made clear that the eight victims were slain by other inmates who were sentenced by special courts under the anti- terrorism law.

The minister also said that had it not been for the alertness of the rehabilitation institute's guards, the judges' patience and persistence, and the interference of the security forces and local authorities to restore security and order to the abovementioned institute, there would have been heavier losses.

Mr. Mohamed Teguia, who explained in his statement the accompanying circumstance of this rebellion and the failed attempt to escape from prison, concluded by saying that an investigation has been initiated and inquiries are under way.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses Parliamentary Session

NC1211190994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1010 GMT 12 Nov 94

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council at the People's Assembly hall in Cairo—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brothers and sisters: I look forward to the participation of all national and legitimate parties in the upcoming People's Assembly elections. This is because I believe responsible participation strengthens and deepens democracy, protects the march of national action from the dangers of disintegration, and transforms the democratic and legitimate force into a strong barrier against the enemies of democracy who do not want stability and progress for this homeland. I also look forward to a broader participation by the Egyptian masses, especially in towns, because such a broad participation will safeguard the integrity and fairness of the elections. It will also affirm that the citizen has emerged from his isolation and has become a partner in making the future, contributing with his free opinion to a stable parliamentary life. In addition, a broad popular participation will correct the march of party life in Egypt because it will draw the parties closer to the masses and make them more interested in the people's concerns and issues.

We view all political legitimate forces as national Egyptian forces that do not distinguish between a supporter and an opponent. We consider opposition a part of the governmental system. It is the duty of the opposition to assume responsibility effectively and positively. We have no particular interest in holding the elections according to the individual or the list system. This is a matter that will be decided in light of national interests, which require achieving the broadest possible participation and giving the opportunity for a parliamentary representation that reflects Egyptian society and preserves the equality of opportunities among all—parties and independents—without prejudice to the constitutional right of every citizen to vote in or to run for elections. [applause]

It is in the interest of all us that the base of participation is expanded, that democracy prospers, and that national concord prevails because the homeland is for all of us. We build it together with free and constructive dialogue, self-esteem, and adherence to joint responsibility, which supports the homeland's supreme interests and shuns the race over minor interests.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The first duty of the parties is to be a school for political education, teaching our new generations the values of democracy, inoculating in them the spirit of Egyptian patriotism and the feeling of belonging, and enlightening them on supporting the party's values and principles. However, a minority of our parties have forgotten this mission and have become groups seeking minor interests, issuing newspapers that trade in principles and slogans that change every day in the market of mutual, individual interests. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: A correct party obliges all its members to adhere to its principles and not to change their slogans and principles daily for temporary gain that harms the homeland's interests or to establish an alliance with undemocratic forces that hire the party's platforms and mouthpieces to circumvent law and order. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: It is my duty to draw attention to the gravity of what is happening to our party life before the danger exacerbates. This is out of eagerness for its safety and to preserve its national course and to affirm the need for it to adhere to the rules of correct democracy.

[passage omitted] The National Dialogue Congress stands out as one of our most important achievements during the previous parliamentary term. It was attended by most political parties and forces, intellectuals, scientists, and experts of all ideological and political persuasions who joined the debate to demonstrate that it is possible to establish a broad-based national accord committed to the country's priorities and responsibly aware of Egypt's current problems and the challenges our country faces.

The Congress produced important recommendations, which collectively sought to expand political participation and create circumstances conducive to the full exercise of political rights in free and honest elections.

As we noted when the national dialogue process began, the country's executive and legislative bodies took heed of these recommendations, studied them, and implemented them whenever this was judged to be a boost to democracy and an encouragement to greater popular participation in public action.

If it is permissible for me to speak to you, and through you to the public, about the elections expected to be held next year, let me propose to you certain broad concepts that I find necessary to enhance the country's benefits from those elections that are a pillar of Egyptian democracy.

First, it is the duty of all political forces operating legally and constitutionally to adopt a stance of positive participation in the elections because it is a major component of public responsibility. Furthermore, if this or that party does not participate, this will not stop the elections, paralyze the country's political process, or turn the clock back. The consequences for any party that refrains from contesting the elections is that it will remain unable to have any direct impact on current and future policies and will forfeit its right and duty to consolidate Egyptian democracy.

Second, everyone must view the elections not as a battle in which all weapons and methods can be used to bruise opponents and increase hostility among candidates, but as an honorable contest in which all candidates and political parties can air their views and platforms and seek the support of the voters on such a basis, rather than on the basis of slander and offense.

Third, it is the duty of all of us to preserve Egyptian national identity during the election campaign so that the elections will be fully Egyptian in substance, method, propaganda, ethics, and objectives. In presenting options to the public, no candidate may resort to methods unacceptable to Egyptian society's traditions and deep-rooted values to achieve goals that are uncongenial to national interests.

Fourth, all parties contesting the elections must accept that the voters have the final say. The people are the sovereign, uncontested decisionmaker. This is the essence and focus of democracy.

Fifth, within the framework of giving a new impetus to the march of democracy and providing a great upsurge of responsible, national, political action free from all restrictions and obstacles, a series of laws have been issued representing a response to the spirit of the recommendations on which there was a wide consensus of views at the General Conference of National Dialogue. These laws are the result of the broad democratic atmosphere in which our society is living, the depth of the choice of the democratic course to which we adhere, and the consolidation of the bases of constitutional legitimacy in our responsible political and national action.

Dear brothers and sisters: This year has also witnessed a great success in confronting the terrorist groups. The Egyptian police have dealt deadly blows against these groups. The police have uncovered their hideouts [applause], monitored their contacts in all directions, and hunted down their fleeing remnants in every place. This success is not undermined if a fugitive band commits a desperate crime here and there because the painful blows have made these groups lose the ability to act and take the initiative. The brave members of the police force have made a great effort that deserves greeting and appreciation [long applause] to restore for the homeland its security from the tentacles of these groups and to return Egypt as it was and as it will be: a secure and stable country that progresses and prospers with the efforts of its sincere sons. Greetings to the police force members who have shown dedication in performing their national duty. [applause] Greetings to their innocent martyrs who sacrificed their virtuous souls so that every citizen will be secure about his livelihood and future. Greetings to the great Egyptian people [applause],

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

who have emerged in anger to support the police in hunting down the terrorist groups and to defend their right to life. Greetings to the heroic Egyptian people who have emerged in anger to denounce the sinful hands who dared to attack a person considered the most virtuous and dearest son of this great people, who rallied around their great thinker Najib Mahfuz, who represents the talented nature of this homeland [applause] and its great civilization and culture in the past and present.

The real mettle of any people appears during hardships and ordeals. Our heroic people faced a new test a few days ago when a natural disaster befell the country, inflicting in some areas huge human and material losses. The will of the masses did not weaken before this event. The values of social solidarity and cohesion were not shaken. So let all of us stand and observe one minute of silence in mourning for the souls of the martyrs. [one minute of silence observed]

Everyone rushed to tackle the effects of the disaster in a splendid show of national cohesion. The state's institutions immediately adopted the necessary measures to ease the effects of the catastrophe on the citizens, particularly the poor. Private institutes, businessmen, and other members of the public extended prompt assistance. This was accompanied by a splendid show of fraternal solidarity by Egypt's friends and sister states, who shared our feelings and efforts during the ordeal and substantially contributed to the rescue efforts within mere hours. On behalf of you and all Egyptians, I extend gratitude and appreciation to all these brothers and friends. [applause]

I hardly need to state that the rescue and reconstruction efforts will continue and increase until they achieve all their objectives. I will inspect these efforts periodically until the effects of the disaster are totally eradicated.

The state's executive and popular establishments and concerned private societies must learn from that painful experience and boost their capability to handle such unexpected, even unprecedented, disasters.

Brothers, sisters, the convening of the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo was an important achievement and a cause of pride for every Egyptian. The fact that the ICPD was held here was clear proof that Egypt is a secure, stable country. It exposed to the world the falseness of the exaggerated reports that sought to blow out of proportion a few terrorist acts and their effects on this peaceful country's security and stability.

The conference met and disbanded without a single security incident, despite the unjust campaign of incitement against it by groups whose attitudes are very well known to us. That incitement began even before the ICPD's program of action and the results of its meetings became known. Throughout the conference, Egypt was the talk of the world as a cradle of security and stability and the land of tolerant Islam where a constructive, objective dialogue among civilizations was taking place, discussing all the aspects of the population problem, one of the worst that our planet faces.

The ICPD's success demonstrated Egypt's ability to host and organize a massive international conference attended by thousands of experts, specialists, media personnel, and a number of distinguished world personalities. The conference gave Egypt the opportunity to play a role that honored every Muslim when it defended Islam's values, tolerance, and grandeur and cooperated with fraternal Islamic countries to ensure that the ICPD document was harmonious with religious and heavenly teachings.

The ICPD also gave Egypt the opportunity to present to the world its successful experience in family planning, which is based on voluntary choice and eschews coercion or practices that are contrary to religious teachings.

These immense gains could not have been achieved had fear or hesitation prevented us from holding the conference in Egypt or if we had lost our self-confidence out of fear that we might have to accept something contrary to our wishes or the tenets of our religion.

None of these fears materialized because we have strength of will, the courage to make our own decisions, and full self-confidence. No one can dictate to us what we must reject.

Finally, the ICPD produced an important document bearing Cairo's name that for the first time created a balance between the need for continuous development and family planning efforts in confronting the dimensions of the population problem. It focused on vital issues, emphasizing a higher status for women and greater attention to their health and social wellbeing.

I maintain that Egypt is the pioneer in adopting such an objective and balanced policy. We view family planning only as an auxiliary effort for the basic task of continuous economic development in the context of long-term planning that seeks to enhance society's capacity to satisfy its members' needs.

We do not base solutions for the future on the family planning issue alone. We are making great efforts to increase society's production capabilities within the framework of a long-term and multi-phased plan. So far we have completed two successive five-year plans. We have made strides in implementing the third five-year plan, which in its first phase has restored Egypt's cultural image and enabled it to modernize its agricultural and industrial production bases. It also has enabled Egypt to reform its infrastructure in an unprecedented way. The third plan focuses on achieving a surge in production in all sectors, creating enough new work opportunities to assimilate the annual natural increase in the work force, and treating the effects of unemployment that have resulted from an accumulated surplus in the labor force that the job market has not been able to absorb in previous years.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The continuation of the development efforts over the past 12 years has led to the implementation of a huge investment program at a cost of 246 billion pounds. This program has prepared Egypt's production capabilities for a huge surge that will be helped by a strong infrastructure that can absorb the continuous expansion in industrial and agricultural production bases. We now have a surplus in electricity production that meets the needs of increasing production growth. Electricity production has increased seven fold. The potential of the transport and communications sector has increased in a way that enables us to absorb double the current size of industrial and agricultural production. We no longer suffer from financial crises to cover the cost of our investment projects or our imports because of an improvement in the Egyptian economic performance which is increasing daily and is eliciting increasing confidence in all international financing institutions. What is more significant is the constant rise in the private sector's share in development projects, a share which has reached 50 percent. The burden of investment used to fall almost completely on the government and the public sector. It is enough to note here that in one year, the wheel of production turned in 233 new factories, established by the private sector in the new urban communities at a cost of 11 billion pounds. These factories have provided 33,000 new work opportunities and added to the national production new commodities and products as good as their foreign counterparts.

Undoubtedly, this increasing role of the private sector in the development projects means increasing the ability of the national economy to constantly grow, thanks to the homeland's resources and its citizens' initiatives. It also means increasing confidence in the future and a feeling of safety and security toward clear and stable national policies to mobilize all resources for development and reconstruction.

Brothers and sisters: The huge investment program implemented by Egypt through two successive plans has achieved real growth rates above the population growth rate. This was achieved despite the requirements of financial reform, which in some years imposed stringent restrictions on expenditure to curb inflation. This was also achieved despite the great expenditure on infrastructure projects, which do not achieve quick returns but are of the utmost importance for the national economy and comprehensive development projects.

[passage omitted] There is no doubt that raising the development rate to three times that of population growth will enable us to improve the conditions of all factions of society and remedy the social disorder that may appear as a side effect to introducing the policies of a market economy. It will also enable us to tackle some of the signs of poverty that continue to affect some aspects of Egyptian life, particularly in the densely populated areas with little resources or in shantytowns, which are behind in education, health, security, and utility services. This is the role of the state that it cannot abandon because the state's main function is to maintain the stability of society, preserve its social peace, and side with the factions that are greater in number and are lesser in resources.

To accomplish the principle of social solidarity, the voluntary efforts of able individuals and institutions could help the state perform its duty so that amity could prevail among all factions of the people, the links in the community become stronger and more cohesive, and the signs of rancor and struggle disappear, and everyone could realize that his progress depends on that of the nation. In this sense, brothers and sisters, social development would be a multidimensional action for wiping out illiteracy; improving the quality of education; and guaranteeing the health of people by providing clean water and sanitary drainage services, medication, and decent and productive jobs.

We believe that social development is a human right that imposes on the state and society a kind of solidarity to shoulder the burdens of basic services required by the less able citizens and provide an opportunity for the maximum number of individuals to join the cycle of production and consumption. Failing to take the social considerations into account will turn development into a mere economic accumulation that may upset the balance of the community's drive because of the absence of social solidarity and justice. In such circumstances, class differences would widen, polarization would deepen, hatred would result, and the community's unity and cohesiveness would be in jeopardy.

In the past, it was possible to achieve economic stability in society at the expense of broad segments of the population. But the prevalence of the principles of equality, justice, and equal rights for everybody has dictated the need to maintain a balance of interests among all factions and to make social development a huge social undertaking that is impossible to accomplish without the contribution of all people, so that each individual may feel that he is a genuine partner in making the march toward development successful.

Brothers and sisters: The question of social justice in developing nations is much too big an issue to turn into a squabble between the left or the right. It is an issue for the entire community. This is because failure to take social considerations into account and to maintain a balance of interests makes it very hard to achieve an overall and continuous development and to attain the aspired stability. I would like to make it clear to every Egyptian that we are in the process of reaping the fruits of this economic reform, the burdens of which have been endured by our people with patience and perseverance. By so doing, the people have proved once again that they enjoy a sense of national awareness and an overwhelming sense of national responsibility. This sense of responsibility has been one of the main features of the Egyptian character throughout the ages. It is also the shield that has protected the march of this ancient people in the face of the toughest challenges.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

I would like every citizen to rest assured that the time has come to gradually enjoy the benefits of reform, after we all have suffered from its consequences and necessities [applause]. It is the duty of all state agencies to always seek to alleviate the sufferings of the low-income people whenever this is possible, and it is in the interest of the public.

Brothers and sisters: The world today is going through radical changes, whether in concepts, values, or structures and institutions that determine international policies. Although I believe that the world is still going through an uncertain period of transition, the final shape of which is yet to be clarified, some signs are starting to materialize. Suffice it to say that the steady rise in the importance and power of giant regional blocs that enjoy increasing cultural, economic, and political capabilities will have to leave its mark on the movement of the world community in the coming epoch. What gives these phenomena more significance is that they coincided with the conclusion in April of the most important agreement in the history of international economic relations that went beyond the commonly known rules for organizing international trade. This agreement will give rise to the establishment of a new organization of world trade that will replace the GATT. This organization will have both positive and negative effects on all countries and groups in the world. These matters require a careful, objective, and serious study. It is unreasonable for us or for the Third World only to watch these phenomena, analyze their effects, and follow up on them. It is their and our duty to move into positive and creative work to establish groups that can play an effective role and contribute to directing the world's movements on all political, economic, and cultural levels.

Specifically, the peoples of the Arab nation should seriously consider methods and mechanisms that will ensure the achievement of rapprochement and a comprehensive and effective economic integration based on interrelated interests and a reduction in restrictions of individuals' freedom of travel and the movement of commodities. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to boost political coordination and cultural cohesion and to open channels for negotiations with the other cartels to guarantee our rights and interests in a world where dangers and challenges are increasing.

Needless to say, the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council with their ad hoc committees and the resources of their members are capable of playing a prominent role in crystallizing these ideas and proposals. There is no doubt that for such a move to be realistic and practical, it requires careful preparation for a genuine Arab reconciliation. [applause] A reconciliation based on clearing the Arab air of things that have happened over the years, curtailment of Arab differences, and settling what can be settled of these differences in an amicable way in the near future, consistent with the common interests and future. Perhaps the first indispensable step toward this goal is consolidating and entrenching the commitment of all Arab countries to refrain from using force or threatening to use it against one another and to totally refrain from interfering in one another's internal affairs, whatever the reason. This is because the logic of resorting to force and interference in domestic affairs among the one Arab family would negate the concept of common national pan-Arab security and shake the joint Arab defense system to its foundations, canceling the principle of mutual respect, which is the basis of any sound relationship.

This reconciliation must be based on frankness so that it will not be a mere bright slogan devoid of any substance. This reconciliation requires us to state that it is not enough for the parties to talk of intentions and goals. They must stress that conduct should be consistent with public statements and deeds with words so that the hearts can be reassured, the minds cleared, and the doubts harbored by individuals and masses can disappear. These doubts are a barrier that can only be removed by true words and deeds.

Our talk about the situation in the region and the future of the Arabs will be incomplete if we do not elaborate on the peace process. Recently, this process witnessed successive developments represented by the progress achieved on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. Although we appreciate the advantages of this progress and the need to continue it on the Palestinian track to broaden the scope of the Palestinian executive powers and consolidate their roots, I find it necessary to reiterate the importance of achieving parallel progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Without such an achievement, the progress that has been made on the other tracks would be inadequate [Qasiran] and would not meet the commitment of all parties seeking to achieve a comprehensive, fair, and permanent peace.

Our conviction about making progress on these two tracks during the coming stage increases with our knowledge of the determination of President Hafiz al-Asad and the Lebanese leadership to establish a peace based on legitimacy and the rule of law—a peace that fits the principles and bases established by the UN resolutions and the Madrid Conference as grounds for a just peace and a comprehensive historic reconciliation.

When we talk about peace we talk about the future. This means that we are charting a new course for the coming generations to enable them to build a solid entity on strong foundations:

First, one of the foundations is guaranteeing equal security for all peoples of the region and ensuring that there will be no more destructive wars or the use of weapons of mass destruction. From this premise, I proposed my initiative in April 1990 and called for making the Middle East a zone free of all types of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, and biological so that a security balance can be achieved in the broad strategic sense free from the logic of military superiority, which we hope is gone once and for all.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Second, in parallel, far-sightedness requires that we consider the best formulas for acnieving regional cooperation in development. This cooperation must stem from the principle of achieving the legitimate interests of all peoples and refrain from clinging to a rigid formula of economic cooperation. Various options and alternatives must be presented for discussion. From this perspective, we look with confidence to the future of the region around us. Within this framework, we participated effectively in the Casablanca Economic Summit as a pioneering country of peace and development. The objective of attending this conference may have positive effects if we make good use of its results and achievements.

Brothers, members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council: Within the framework of this view of our modern world and the region in which we live, we will determine our concept of Egypt's major role that we play by virtue of our heritage, civilization, status, unique geographic position, and our people's distinguished potential, which qualify them to carry out a mission that exceeds our political borders. We play this role within the framework of international legitimacy to safeguard security and establish peace in the region and enhance international and regional cooperation and boost development to achieve stability and prosperity and a better future for all peoples. This pioneering role being played by Egypt is constant, selfless, firm, and independent and does not hinge on the will of any country or a group of countries. This is Egypt's role and destiny throughout the ages. This role is indispensable to maintain balance and stability in the region and to protect it from falling prey to oppression and aggression and to enable it to chart its way to a safe and stable future. This role is not confined to the Arab World but also extends to the Islamic World. Egypt presents these sound priorities to both Arab and Islamic worlds and considers their concerns, issues, and work to make their efforts successful. In addition, Egypt's role extends to Africa. We are proud of our affiliation with Africa, its heritage, and soil. We seek with all our strength to enhance Africa's ability to confront its problems and achieve stability, development, and reconstruction.

Brothers and sisters: I am optimistic that we will attain our goals, God willing. We have not forfeited a right nor abandoned our duties. We will spare no effort to serve the homeland's interests. My preoccupation has been to make every citizen realize that the stability of the homeland is the sound way to achieve progress, because stability means clear vision, firm policy, continuation of the march, and continued building. My preoccupation has been to broaden the framework of participation to include everyone, both supporters and opponents, the majority and minority, so that we can build a cohesive and strong homeland based on tolerance, amity, and dialogue. We want a homeland where all people agree on the supreme interests. My preoccupation has been to build a cohesive society where the people may cooperate to make progress and where reason and security prevail and the fruits of development are distributed to everyone so that there will be balance and accord. My preoccupation has been to rebuild the homeland on new foundations where the initiative of every Egyptian can be unleashed so that he may be free from fear and worry to participate confidently in making the future. I know that the Egypt of the future needs a courageous stance based on candor and self-examination so that it can reconsider old concepts that shackled its march and obstructed huge patriotic forces from contribution and participation. I also know that the Egypt of the future must be a country of social peace and cooperation. Since we are all dutybound to encourage all potential to build the country, the responsibility of the regime is to take sides with the needy factions that make up the vast majority of our working people.

We know that one hand alone cannot applaud and that any policies, no matter how sincere, become valuable only if they serve the public and enjoy its support until they become real facts that improve the people's lives. I thank God for establishing a bond of righteousness between us and our people so that the process of change might proceed with calm and self-confidence, removing hundreds of high hurdles, eliminating numerous outdated ideas, and building a new homeland that flourishes by virtue of its own sons' efforts.

Brothers and sisters, I am optimistic that we will achieve our objectives, God willing, because we are not beginning from square one, but are continuing a process of continuous reform of increasing goals and results. Our current goal is to increase economic development rates above the population growth rate and to double national income, achieving prosperity and establishing a stable equation between economic and human resources under the aegis of a system of comprehensive social justice.

Achieving this objective means eliminating the accumulated problems caused by unemployment, ensuring an equal rate of development throughout Egypt, and seriously confronting the problems caused by poverty, which continue to beset some sections of the public. Achieving this objective was formerly impossible in an atmosphere lacking mutual trust and incentives. It could not be achieved without an infrastructure allowing constant industrial expansion. The goal that was impossible before is now possible. Indeed it has become a comprehensive plan that is actually being implemented. We could have spared ourselves several extra years of hardship and arrived sooner at the beginnings of this era had it not been for those unconscientious people who devoted themselves to evil ways and waged war on the homeland, hindering its progress and prosperity. We thank God that the fierce challenges and difficult problems we faced demonstrated that we are a noble and great nation aware of its sound objectives.

Brothers, I am also optimistic that we will achieve our goals regardless of the difficulties and obstacles, because we know our way and seek the homeland's good. Our

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

way is clear and forthright. It brings the people together rather than dividing them. It builds rather than destroys. It protects the homeland's unity and solidarity. It builds for today and for the future. It raises the banner of justice and upholds justice and goodness. It takes the side of the vast majority of our working people. Our resolve is unbreakable, bolstered by our unflinching faith in God's succor, because we fear God in our every action and spare no effort in promoting the homeland's interest. Our spirit is free of personal bias. We know no hate and bear no grudge. Our contributions are purely for God's pleasure. We seek no personal gain and our primary and only objective is to have a proud, strong, and capable homeland full of bounty for its sons and beaming its light to the world.

We have completed the greater part of an arduous, complicated process and are now standing at the threshold of a new stage of industrial production. We have surmounted big hurdles and successfully faced fierce challenges. Despite the obstacles and challenges, we have laid a sound foundation for fruitful progress, the building of which is growing by the day, toward the final goal of a homeland able to satisfy all its citizens' needs. We have liberated the will of the homeland from many burdens to ensure that the process of development should proceed without hindrance, to enable everyone to share fearlessly in the effort, and give initiative a free hand to rebuild and multiply the homeland's capabilities and resources. We have liberated the citizens' will of many fears, to restore to them confidence in themselves and in their country so that they may feel reassured about their future in an atmosphere of democracy, stable policies, and equality before the law.

We have corrected the accumulated shortcomings of many years to restore to the homeland an infrastructure able to support the burdens of development and progress.

We have torn down the wall of isolation so that Egypt will become a part of the developing world, enjoying good relations with every state. Egypt supports peace based on justice and international cooperation based on equal opportunities and rights. We have not forfeited our rights and have not kept quiet about mistakes. Our constant concern is for Egypt to restore its pioneering status and to be the voice of right and justice and a strong supporter of legitimacy and respect for the law.

Brothers and sisters, Egypt needs the efforts of all its sincere sons, who must pursue the correct course to promote the homeland and achieve its renaissance. We will always support justice. We will launch war on corruption. We will not deviate from the correct goal, no matter how difficult the road. We will confront our problems with the necessary frankness, regardless of the hardship of the confrontation. We will honor the pledge and trust in defense of the homeland's unity and dignity. I ask Almighty God to help us and to guide us to what is good for Egypt. He is the best supporter. May God grant us success. May God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Mubarak Comments on Syrian-Israeli Peace, Iraq

NC1611193394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak today stressed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is interested in reaching a peace agreement with Israel. He hoped that such an agreement would be concluded before June next year, when preparations for the Israeli elections would start.

In an interview with AP, President Mubarak cautioned against the delay in the arrival of external aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas. He noted that the non-arrival of this aid will make the Gaza Strip and the West Bank a fertile ground for more acts of violence.

On the situation in Iraq, President Mubarak said that the Iraqi people alone are suffering from the economic embargo imposed on Iraq, noting that a formula or a way needs to be found to help the Iraqi people. However, he noted that the time is not right for lifting the sanctions on Iraq because the Gulf states do not trust the current Iraqi regime.

On the economic reforms undertaken by Egypt, President Mubarak noted that they are proceeding on the right course, but he stressed that Egypt does not accept pressure from anybody.

Al-Baz Notes Importance of Syrian Role in Peace

NC1611125094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 16 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, [Egyptian] Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has described Syria's role in the peace process as positive and effective to a great extent.

In statements published in the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN today, he said the Syrian stance on peace depended on strength, not weakness.

He noted that the stability experienced in Syria means that the surrounding Arab area is stable and he described the Syrian role in the region as central and important.

Al-Baz affirmed that developments on the other tracks of the peace process do not belittle the paramount importance of progress on the Syrian track. He noted that all the current moves do not constitute a comprehensive peace, because they should be associated with real, genuine progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

He affirmed that the Syrian stance on the peace process has imposed itself on the negotiations and noted that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel has begun to be convinced of the Syrian position's seriousness and to absorb it.

He remarked that it is unreasonable for the Israeli demands to be open and the Arab demands to be limited. He called for a point of reference and specific bases for the parties concerned to refer to, because the issue is not one of bargaining.

PLO's Sha'th Visits, Meets With al-Alfi

JN1611170394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, met with Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi in Cairo this morning. The two sides discussed cooperation with respect to the airport, the crossing points, and facilitating the entry of Palestinians to Cairo through Egyptian ports and from there to the National Authority areas.

Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah who attended the meeting said that the Egyptian minister showed understanding and readiness to settle all outstanding issues.

On the other hand, al-Qidrah confirmed the report that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to be held in Cairo have been postponed to 29 November.

Sha'th Comments on Cooperation

NC1711112494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has said that his talks in Cairo dealt for the first time with Egyptian-Palestinian relations. The talks, he added, also dealt with turning the permanent Egyptian stance in support of the Palestinian people into a strategic and tactical alliance in the face of Israeli attempts to dominate the Palestinian people.

Sha'th made these remarks at a news conference before leaving Cairo for the Gaza Strip today after a visit of several days. He said Egypt's stance on Palestine is obvious and entirely supportive of the Palestinian people and assumes the form of political backing everywhere. [passage omitted]

As regards the strategic goals of his talks, he said they dealt with cooperation in establishing an economic structure that will create economic relations in the face of an evolving new world in the Middle East.

Sha'th said: We want to lay a direct line from Gaza to the West Bank as part of Egypt's regional plan for an electrical grid. He added that agreement has been reached with [Minister of Electricity] Engineer Mahir Abazah for a Palestinian team to go to Cairo on Saturday to pursue the talks. He noted: Egypt has agreed to provide us with technical experts to build a Palestinian electrical plant and train Palestinian technicians. We also want to purchase gas from Egypt through the gas network, which Egypt (?will extend to) Lebanon, because we do not want to be dependent on Israel in this field. Obtaining gas from Egypt will enable us to build water desalination plants and thus we will not need Israel for our requirements of water and electricity.

Discussing trade with Egypt, Sha'th explained that the Gaza Strip buys from Israel goods worth $800 million annually and that the PNA wants to purchase these goods from Egypt, especially because Egyptian products are [word indistinct] and better than similar Israeli goods.

He said he held talks with Transport and Communications Minister Sulayman Mutawalli and Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi on opening a corridor for goods between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. He remarked that this measure will represent a qualitative transition in relations, because the Palestinian market may [words indistinct] from Egypt goods worth $1 billion.

He said: I received promises from all the Egyptian officials I met that a corridor for the passage of goods may be opened in two months. He affirmed that the opening of [words indistinct] for Egypt in Gaza and Jericho will help [word indistinct] Egyptian-PNA relations.

He added: We also want Palestinian patients to be treated in Egyptian hospitals that are known for their high medical performance. He noted that the amount of money Palestinians pay for their treatment in Israeli hospitals [words indistinct] reaches $180 million annually.

He said a Palestinian security delegation will visit Cairo on 2 December to discuss security issues with Egyptian Interior Ministry officials. He added: On the political level we seek Egypt's support, because [words indistinct] the Israeli closure and blockade imposed on our people in the Gaza Strip. He stressed the importance of the Egyptian stance in support of the [words indistinct] issue, noting that the issue should not be delayed any further.

Paper Criticizes Israel's Policy on 'Palestine'

NC1611075794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says the success of any further peace talks, whether with Syria or with Lebanon, will depend to a great extent on Israel's method and approach to respecting the first agreement concluded with the Palestinian side and on the confidence in any agreements it will sign.

In its editorial today the paper refers to repeated threats by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin or Foreign

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Minister Shim'on Peres to launch military operations against opponents to the Palestinian self-rule authorities in the Gaza Strip after establishing the opponents' whereabouts.

It says the Israeli minister [as heard] seems to have lost his memory. He even pretends to forget that his government endorsed, with full consciousness, the so-called Gaza-Jericho Accord. This accord, the paper adds, led to the PLO, led by Yasir 'Arafat, assuming the self-rule authority in these two areas. The PLO has actually begun to assume its responsibilities in these two areas, most notably the responsibility for maintaining security.

The paper notes that although the self-rule authority is in charge, Israel rejects this reasonable responsibility being practiced by the self-rule authority with whatever capabilities it has.

The paper asks about the use of the Declaration of Principles, the subsequent Gaza-Jericho Accord, and the measures taken to extend the powers of the self-rule authority there. It says that instead of contributing to the success of this accord and supporting the self-rule experiment, Israel wants to assert that it will not hesitate to violate the sovereignty of this rule in its early stages.

Minister Urges Agricultural Cooperation With Israel

NC1611214294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, has discussed with members of the Egyptian Businessmen's Society the results of their recent visit to Israel.

He said Egypt can cooperate with Israel in the area of agricultural research and can benefit from Israel's advanced technology.

He said Israel's marketing and exporting capability should be used to market Egyptian products, especially because in Egypt, unlike in Israel, some crops are available all year round. Israel can reexport some Egyptian products, he said.

Dr. Wali explained that the agricultural sector in Israel is diminishing and that the one thing Israel is particularly interested in now is water. Egypt can replace Israel in many world markets and can benefit from genetic engineering, improved seeds, and new plant breeds, he said.

He said that at the Casablanca summit, Egypt proposed setting up a center for planting the desert and Israel expressed its readiness to participate in it. Experts from Arab countries will be trained at this center to develop the plantation of the desert. [passage omitted]

Official on Settling African Disputes, Peacekeeping

NC1611132794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, assistant foreign minister for African affairs, has said that Egypt welcomes all initiatives to establish an African peacekeeping force. He added that Egypt welcomes any effort to activate peacekeeping operations in Africa because commitments to there are not limited to security aspects but also cover stability. He noted that Egypt seeks to achieve security and economic stability in Africa and therefore it encourages every attempt to settle conflicts and preserve peace in Africa.

He said that Egypt has decided to set up a training center to settle disputes and preserve peace in cooperation with the Defense and Foreign Ministries. The Defense Ministry, he added, will train African military personnel on peacekeeping while the Egyptian Diplomatic Institute will train African cadres on settling disputes and monitoring elections.

He said that Egypt has decided to hold a meeting of experts from African countries in December to discuss cooperation on peacekeeping in Africa.

Musa Meets Mauritanian President in Paris

NC1411172594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] After meeting with Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya in Paris today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that he conveyed to him a message from President Husni Mubarak. He said that they also discussed issues of common concern, Arab developments, and current international issues. He noted that they reviewed the results of the Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers meetings in Algiers and Egypt's request to join this group. He pointed out that Egypt and Mauritania stressed the importance of strengthening Arab cooperation in North Africa.

Mauritanian Minister Urges Membership in AMU

NC1711090894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0722 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ould Lekhal has affirmed his country's full support for Egypt joining the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. He said no Arab country can oppose such a measure that gives great impetus to this group.

In a statement published in AL-AHRAM today, he noted that Article 17 of the AMU Foundation Law stipulates that membership is open to Arab and African countries

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

but the problem is that Egypt asked to join the AMU as an observer, which is not stipulated in the agreement.

He remarked that a legal committee will examine the issue to find a solution to these legal formalities before submitting the membership request to the next AMU summit due to be held in Libya early next year for a final decision.

Musa Views Arab Cooperation, Ties With AMU

NC1611120394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1013 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, he gave the president a report on the recent meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] in Algeria and Egypt's request to join the AMU as an observer. The report also included the discussions held there and contacts held with Algerian officials led by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual.

The foreign minister added that he also forwarded to President Mubarak a report on the situation in the Arab region as a whole. He noted that Egypt will continue to enhance its ties with the AMU on the bases of mutual interests, to support Arab solidarity in various Arab areas, and to hold consultations on the region's future and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries.

He said the situation requires us to enhance our relations with the AMU, adding that he believes Egypt's move in this regard was belated. Egypt should have strengthened its ties with the AMU earlier, he added.

He noted that North Africa can integrate and cooperate as part of the Arab integration and cooperation and that this will not affect our membership of or cooperation within the Damascus Declaration. He said that the Arab League and the need to preserve it and activate its role in the broader Arab framework take precedence over all these formations.

Asked about the message he brought from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Musa said it deals with bilateral relations and noted the need to further advance these relations and cooperate with Mauritania within the AMU.

Musa added that President Taya gave him a message for President Mubarak in which he asserted his full support for Egypt joining the AMU and his interest in this move on the grounds that it strengthens Arab cooperation and coordination among North African states.

Asked about the president's upcoming tour of European countries, Musa said the most important topics on the agenda will be Egypt's bilateral ties with these countries. The talks, he added, will also focus on supporting Egypt's economic reform and trade and tourism exchanges with these countries.

He noted that the issues that will be discussed in Britain and Italy will differ from those to be dealt with in Romania and Poland. He said Egypt, Romania, and Poland are currently engaged in economic reform, hence it was very important to exchange views on cooperation in the economic reform process, as well as on trade, investment, and other issues.

As for Britain and Italy, he added, they help other countries in the economic reform process, through aid or by boosting trade, investment, and tourism.

Musa said talks in Britain and Italy will deal with enhancing bilateral relations, the Middle East situation, the peace process, and other issues that concern us, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Mediterranean, and regional cooperation.

Editorial Analyzes U.S. Decision on Bosnia

NC1711113794 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 12 Nov 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Truth About the U.S. Decision on Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington finally decided to take its delayed step of not participating in monitoring the arms embargo imposed on the legitimate Bosnian Government. Starting today, the United States is following a new policy toward the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which many hope will be a real turning point in the course of this European tragedy with its important Islamic and international aspects that has been going on for more than three years.

This U.S. decision came when the Clinton administration announced yesterday that the United States will not take part in the implementation of measures imposing an embargo on supplying the Bosnian Muslims with weapons as of today, Saturday. This might practically mean that Washington has decided to allow Bosnia's Muslims to be armed so that they can defend themselves. The United States did not wait for a collective decision on this issue from the Security Council.

This decision was widely welcomed in Egypt and the rest of the countries in the Islamic world. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that this was a positive decision in light of the continued Serbian aggression and the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to accept the peace maps and plan and their refusal to cooperate with the international community. Therefore, it became necessary to support the Bosnian Government's legitimate right to defense.

The European countries denounced this U.S. decision, especially France, Britain, and Russia. These three countries expressed deep concern with the decision, and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said that this embargo is mandatory and was agreed to by the Western alliance countries. But he expressed sympathy with the U.S. President, who was under heavy pressure from the Congress on this issue.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Bosnian Government, however, does not expect a flood of weapons in the wake of this U.S. decision, which many observers say will have little effect on the balance of power in Bosnia between the Serbs on one side and the Croats and Muslims on the other.

Anyhow, there are a number of important observations that define this decision's true dimensions:

1. The U.S. nonparticipation in monitoring the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims does not mean that it will open its arsenals to the Muslims to take what they want. We should be aware of the difference between lifting the arms embargo and supplying Muslims with weapons and nonparticipation in the UN enforcement of this embargo. No one knows when and how this question will be practically solved.

2. The United States has withdrawn from the monitoring procedures but the other NATO countries' ships continue to monitor very closely the coasts of Bosnia and Croatia to prevent any weapons from reaching the Muslims. This is difficult and even impossible to ignore.

3. This U.S. decision is a precedent that could be followed when dealing with other similar resolutions, such as imposing sanctions on Libya, Iraq, or other countries. Some countries could announce that they will not join in implementing these sanctions because of the damage that could be inflicted on them as a result of the different views they have on this or that issue.

4. This decision has brought into the open the U.S.-European differences over the policies that should be followed on the Bosnian problem.

5. This decision came two days before the Security Council's meeting to discuss reducing the sanctions imposed on Iraq. The meeting is expected to witness a fierce conflict between Russia and France on one side and the United States on the other. Russia is calling for reducing the sanctions while the United States believes that Iraq's recognition of Kuwait is not enough for the sanctions to be reduced or lifted.

These five points make us believe that the U.S. decision on Bosnia is a warning step forward but might not mean a complete change in the U.S. stance on the embargo to the extent of legally lifting the ban on dispatching weapons to Bosnia's Muslims.

Ministry Claims New Leader of al-Jama'ah Killed

NC1711103194 Paris AFP in English 1022 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces have killed the new leader of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's military wing, Ahmad Hasan 'Abd-al Jalil, the interior ministry announced Thursday.

'Abd-al Jalil was killed in a shootout in the last few days with an anti-terrorist unit in southern Egypt after they moved in to arrest him at his hideout, the ministry said without giving a precise date.

He had returned from abroad under the orders of al-Jama'ah leader, Mustafa Hamzah, to take charge of the organisation's armed operations following the killing of Tal'at Yasin Hammam by police in Cairo last April, a ministry statement said.

Mubarak: Newspapers Exaggerating Flood Disaster

NC1611180994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that he held an expanded meeting with his senior aides today to discuss ways of dealing with the problems resulting from the recent floods. During the meeting, a full evaluation was made of the losses resulting from this disaster and the amount of financial aid from abroad. He described this aid as not substantial.

In a statement to journalists after opening an exhibition of products organized by young graduates, President Mubarak said that we have received from abroad approximately 40,000 blankets while the Egyptian Armed Forces alone have donated 42,000 blankets. He added that he will announce later today the amount of financial aid that Egypt has received from abroad to deal with the aftermath of these floods. He affirmed that the state is shouldering the greater burden in this respect in conjunction with the private sector, which is rebuilding several villages devastated by the floods.

President Mubarak said some party newspapers have greatly exaggerated the situation, to the extent that some of them have mentioned that the industrial zone in Suhaj was completely submerged. He said: I have sent a delegation to the area. We discovered that the floods did not reach this area at all.

President Mubarak added: No one should exaggerate and publish groundless reports. The press will lose its credibility this way. We must be realistic and not deceive the people. He expressed surprise at these exaggerations.

Referring to the disasters that occur in various parts of the world and the floods that have hit Italy recently, President Mubarak stressed that the state acted as quickly as possible in Upper Egypt, surveyed the houses which had been destroyed, and calculated the losses. Companies will start rebuilding the destroyed villages immediately.

He said: We will give funds to the owners of mud houses that are far from dry river beds so they can build new houses.

Answering a question on whether there were delays in delivering food and medical aid to the stricken areas, President Mubarak said: There are some who talk about this problem without having seen anything. When the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

floods occurred, the armed forces acted quickly and built tent cities for the homeless. The armed forces gave them food, medicine, and shelter.

He explained that the exaggerations occurring in Egypt do not occur elsewhere in the world. He said the same type of exaggerations occurred after the earthquake. At that time they said the government was late in acting. They exaggerated and made groundless statements. He said: No one could have acted more quickly than the government did. The government has the ability to act, to set up camps, and to do everything for the comfort of the citizens. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak noted that these are some who imagine that the aid which has arrived in Egypt amounts to 1 billion pounds. In fact, so far we have received not more than 60 million pounds.

Asked about the total cost of compensation for the destroyed houses, President Mubarak said the cost will exceed 300 million pounds for buildings only, in addition to compensation for other losses.

Asked about Qatar's announcement that it will pay 5,000 pounds to the family of each person who died in the floods, President Mubarak said: They have announced this and sent a fax to this effect but we have not received anything yet. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Islamic Groups Oppose Normalization With Israel

MM1711112094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Moroccan Islamic Groups Opposed to Normalization With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI bureau—Ulema and fundamentalist movements in Morocco have said that recognition of Israel conflicts with the Islamic Shari'ah and democratic legitimacy. And that "the decisions to recognize and establish diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations with Israel represent a position contravening and violating the Islamic Shari'ah and also legally conflicting with the constitutions. So they are legally null and void."

The ulema and the fundamentalist movements said in a memorandum sent to leaders of the Arab and Islamic states through their embassies in Rabat that the rulers alone are responsible for these decisions before God, history, and their peoples, who are not to blame. The memorandum is signed by representatives of the Justice and Welfare Group, the Reform and Renewal Movement, and the Constitutional Popular Movement, in addition to ulema Abdelaziz Ben El Seddik, Cheikh Abdelhai Ben El Seddik, Cheikh Abdelatif Habsous, Dr. Idriss El Ketani, Ahmed El Reouni, and Attorney Mustafa El Romaid.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Inaugurates 'Supreme Council for Peace'

Speaks About Peace Efforts

EA1411192094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant-General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the republic and chairman of the Supreme Council for Peace [SCP], addressed the well-attended meeting held this morning at the friendship hall to mark the occasion of the council's first session. His excellency said the council must become another of the pillars of peace established by the National Salvation Revolution to confirm that peace was the objective for whose achievement the revolution had been working. He said the council represented one of the revolution's firm steps towards achieving that aim.

Lt-Gen Al-Bashir said the revolution was sparked off to put matters right in the south, to end the fighting and to restore stability and peace to the south whose resources had been depleted by the war. The revolution opposed the homeland's enemies and their interference in its affairs.

He went on to say that the revolution's firm commitment to peace was commensurate with its vision and course. He referred to all the initiatives adopted and steps taken by the government in this sphere, the most outstanding of which were the unilateral cease-fire declaration, the declaration of a general amnesty for all those who bore arms and the convening of the national peace dialogue conference whose resolutions formed a basis for the achievement of peace.

The leader of the revolution also referred to the negotiations between the revolution and the rebel movement, the last of which had taken place in the context of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative. He said Sudan remained hopeful that this initiative would bring peace to Sudan. He confirmed Sudan's responsiveness to all peace initiatives.

He referred to the rebel movement's intransigence arising out of pressure brought to bear on it by foreign quarters. Al-Bashir confirmed the government's intention to persevere with the dialogue and negotiations to reach an end to the war. He said: Our stance on Sudan's unity is firm and there will be no bargaining over it. Sudan will not abandon its cultural course.

He confirmed that the Islamic law and the traditional norms were the two main sources of legislation in Sudan.

The president of the republic said: In seeking peace we call on all the citizens of the homeland to support the peace program from within. The rebel movement must

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

lay down its arms. The international community must support Sudan's peace efforts.

[Words indistinct] referring to Simon Mori the official spokesman of the united faction of the rebel movement and in charge of relief, and Paul (Analobo). Garang's representative in the United States were participating in the achievement of peace from within.

The secretary-general of the SCP, Mr. Lino Rol Deng, then spoke, stressing that the establishment of the SCP must be regarded as a new stage and an embodiment of the revolution's policy to solve the southern issue and achieve development and stability. The establishment of the SCP constituted a culmination of the revolution's steps to tackle the southern issue and the effects of war in all areas. Mr. Lino said that during this phase the SCP would work toward implementing the main objectives of the revolution's program for the achievement of peace. He added that the council would coordinate the official and popular efforts in confirmation of national unity and as an enhancement of what had already been achieved on the internal front.

The secretary-general of the SCP emphasized the importance of preparing ways and means toward providing the displaced and returnees with stability. Projects should also be rehabilitated together with all services with a view to restoring normal life in the south and the other areas affected by the war.

His excellency said the council would take a great interest in all the organizations operating in the field of peace. Mr. Lino Rol Deng touched on the revolution's efforts to achieve peace and the initiatives it had taken through all avenues despite the intransigence of the rebel movement and its obstruction of the revolution's initiatives in this regard. He confirmed that the SCP would follow in the footsteps of the revolution until peace was achieved in accordance with the firm ideals of the Sudanese nation on preserving the country's integrity and security.

He praised the efforts of brothers and friends at both the regional and international levels to assist Sudan's peace efforts. Mr. Lino Rol said the council's general secretariat had made preparations to achieve peace from within and from outside the country. He stressed the council's confidence in the ability of sons of the Sudanese people to achieve peace for the country.

Appeals to Expatriates To Return

EA1511135494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council for Peace (SCP) endorsed in its meeting last night at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum the speech of the president of the Republic and chairman of the council at the opening session of the meeting following a wide-ranging discussion by the members of the council. The members expressed approval of all the basic ideals and points mentioned in the speech.

Commenting on the deliberations by the members, the president of the Republic, who chaired the session, said that the internal march for peace began with the inception of the National Salvation Revolution and the commercial exploitation of the southern issue had been brought to an end. He said that the conference of national dialogue on peace issues had laid down the program for the revolution to achieve peace. His excellency described the SCP as the culmination of efforts to achieve peace. He said that the council would bring about peace. Once peace had been achieved from within the country, negotiations would complement the internal peace.

His excellency stressed the need for returnees to find a better situation on their return. He said that confidence must be built up among citizens. He repeated the offer of a general amnesty for all those who bore arms. He appealed to all those living abroad, northerners and southerners, to return to the homeland and participate in reconstruction and rehabilitation. His excellency welcomed the returnees pointing out that some of the returnees had already assumed leadership positions. He said the door was open for participation.

The president expressed approval for dialogue from within the country with political forces, stressing that the structure of the SCP reflected the outcome of internal dialogue.

Ministry Briefed on Islamic Conference Meeting

EA1611084794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Foreign Ministry's regular forum today, Ambassador Izz al-Din Hamid, the ministry's acting first undersecretary, read out the draft resolution approved by a meeting of experts from the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO] recently held in Jiddah, who had prepared the agenda for the meeting of ICO foreign ministers and that of the ICO summit to be held on 13 and 14 December. The participants had also prepared the draft resolutions to be submitted at the summit. His excellency the ambassador said the draft resolutions concentrated on economic aspects with a view to bringing about economic integration between the organization's member states.

His excellency explained that in the context of Sudan, the participants adopted a clause demanding support for the Sudanese Government's efforts to preserve the country's unity, stability, territorial integrity, and cultural heritage. He said the draft resolution, which was unanimously approved, demanded support for the government against the hostile campaigns designed to fragment the country's unity. He added that the draft resolution praised the government's peace efforts and appealed to member states to support Sudan's efforts to preserve its territorial integrity. He said Sudan's delegation had demanded a clear resolution on violations of the Islamic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

law and had also pressed for coordination between member states in the sphere of human rights.

Bishop Gabriel Rorech, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, who also spoke at the forum, reviewed the aims of the Supreme Council for Peace [SCP], chaired by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic. He said the council was established to seek ways of solving the various disputes in the country and defining their causes. He added that the council would reflect Sudan's views on the outside world through the Foreign Ministry. He said the SCP would strive to strengthen cooperation between Sudanese in the country, to enhance good neighborly relations and to strengthen relations with brothers.

He stressed that the council was fully mandated to handle refugees returning to the country. There had been intensive contacts between the Foreign Ministry and refugees in neighboring states in this context.

He said one of the council's tasks was to channel a comprehensive message through Sudan's embassies in those states to persuade the outlaws to return and participate in building the homeland. He announced that the council was empowered to promote human development in all spheres.

Ummah Party Members Questioned on Secret Paper

MM1011154094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 94 pp1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Detention and Interrogation of Ummah Party Members; Sudanese Security Campaign To Locate Secret Opposition Paper"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—The Sudanese security authorities have detained and interrogated some members of the opposition Ummah Party in the course of a campaign to find the editing and printing location of a secret opposition paper that has been published and distributed in Sudan for weeks.

According to Ummah Party officials, the security authorities the day before yesterday arrested four of the party's members and leading figures 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Ali Ahmad, former governor of Dafur and lecturer at Khartoum University; Sarah Naqdallah, member of the Ummah Party's Political Bureau and women's affairs secretary; Dr. Salah Bushra; and lawyer al-Fadil Muhammad Diyab. They were interrogated for hours about the secret paper called SAWT AL-UMMAH [voice of the nation].

The security authorities released the four yesterday evening but asked them to go back for further questioning the following day. [passage omitted]

Rebel Movement Official Announces 'Defection'

EA1511135894 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] (Bol Analubu), who used to be director of the rebel movement's Garang faction in Washington and director of its special office for receiving food assistance in support of the movement there, and who defected from Garang and joined Riak Machar's faction this year, has announced his final defection from the rebel movement and return to the country to take part in the efforts to establish peace from within the country.

He said this while attending the opening session of the Supreme Council for Peace yesterday at Friendship Hall in Khartoum.

He said: I have returned to Sudan because the establishment of peace from within the country is a large, common responsibility and will ensure the return home of everyone to contribute in their turn toward achieving the sought-after development in the political, social and agricultural fields and other fields.

He said that the initiative to bring about peace from within the country would put an end to the war and ensure that citizens protected their areas from any force trying to interfere with their security and commit aggression against them at any time.

In a statement made to our reporter, (Analubu) revealed that he had been the director for offices of the rebel movement's Garang faction in Washington during the period 1989 to 1993, but the rebel Garang had followed dictatorial policies and cashed in on the movement in the name of the people of the south. He added that he had joined the United Faction led by Riak Machar this year but was convinced that peace had returned to the country and that continuing the war imposed on them by colonialist forces would achieve nothing.

New Television Channel Begins Transmissions

EA1611091294 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1800 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Television Service channel started testing its studio transmission services today. This was disclosed by Awad Jadayn, the director of the International TV Service channel. He said the TV service could be viewed all over Khartoum State on Channel 9 on ordinary TV sets. Transmission rehearsals will cover two major daily periods. The first period begins transmission at 0600 and signs off at 2000. The second transmission period opens at 1600 and signs off at 1800. Three late night shows will be screened each week on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 2200 until sign-off at midnight.

Al-Turabi Interviewed on Carlos, Terrorism, Training

JN0811214994 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 7-13 Nov 94 pp 23-27

[Interview with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, "founder of the modern Sudanese Islamic Movement" and leader of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

National Islamic Front, by correspondent Jamal Ahmad Khashuqji in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Khashuqji] What about your recent European visits and meetings with French officials? It was said that you paved the way for handing Carlos over to France. What about your recent meeting with Kenyan President Arap Moi? Isn't all this tantamount to official and formal actions?

[Al-Turabi] I did not go to France. I only stopped over at a French airport on my way to Spain where I delivered a lecture. In Spain, I met with officials and academicians who discussed a world issue preoccupying them; namely, the new Islamic renaissance. Spain is concerned with this issue due to its history and geographical proximity to North Africa.

[Khashuqji] Did you meet with French officials?

[Al-Turabi] I did not enter Paris. I only stopped over at the airport.

[Khashuqji] What about the [terrorist] Carlos?

[Al-Turabi] The French are now in an election season, so they talk about everything. My name is heard a lot, just like world fundamentalism and Carlos. Some have mentioned my name in this competitive election battle. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Should the Islamic Salvation Front replace Algeria's electoral system with your system if it takes charge in Algeria?

[Al-Turabi] After taking charge in Algeria, if they wish to work out a system to prevent money from influencing the elections, it will be up to them to do so. However, they should not work out a system under which they can monopolize rule. This is because monopoly is not permissible in our religion, whether it is a monopoly on power, finances, or even religion. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] What is your frank position on the violence and terrorism that is taking place in some countries?

[Al-Turabi] In my opinion, it is that the governments that started the violence. Some of those who were subjected to violence responded with similar violence. This is permissible in our religion. If then any one transgresses the prohibition against you, transgress ye likewise against him. [Koranic verse] This also applies to those in North Africa where the governments started the violence. People, however, do not consider the violence used by governments as violence. I, however, call it violence. If we wish to use a neutral word, we can say the use of force. A Muslim cannot use force against another Muslim.

[Khashuqji] Dr. Usamah al-Baz [of Egypt] asserted that there are training camps for terrorists here. The recent U.S. envoy also said so. They even mentioned the names of specific places.

[Al-Turabi] No, they did not mention specific places. We heard that the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum specified al-Markhiyat as a training camp. This is a camp known to everyone and it is not a secret place. It is seen by hundreds of thousands of students and ordinary Sudanese citizens who volunteer for the popular forces. It is also seen by foreign reporters. What camp, secret training, and terrorism are they talking about? During my trip to the United States, I saw lists in Congressional documents that call for ridicule because they mentioned places where no policeman is present.

[Khashuqji] What if some Arabs who took refuge in your country have set up a training camp without the knowledge of the Sudanese authorities? Some of these men came from Afghanistan, and they have differences and disputes with their governments?

[Al-Turabi] These persons do not need training because they came from Afghanistan. We welcome those who were starved or affected by political sedition. However, they should respect our systems because we will not agree to setting up a training camp in our country. This is totally rejected.

[Khashuqji] What is your opinion on the "jihad" current? I am asking you now as an intellectual and leader in the modern Islamic movement.

[Al-Turabi] It complements the call's current which began through preachers and writers. If this call has been preoccupied with the materialism of culture and money, this should be complemented with jihad. This current emerged in countries where its presence has become necessary because the other party does not want to hold a dialogue. It only wants to fight. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Begins Visit to China

EA0411211094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih today began an official visit to China to last several days, during which he will discuss with Beijing officials ways of strengthening economic, commercial, and technical cooperation, as well as international and regional issues of common interest. The visit is being paid in the framework of Sudanese diplomatic action to strengthen overall cooperation between Sudan and China.

It will be recalled that a delegation of Sudanese businessmen recently visited China, where they toured several Chinese cities. At the end of that visit contracts were signed providing for the establishment of pharmaceutical and electric appliance factories. An agreement on support for agricultural activities was also signed.

Currently, another delegation of Sudanese businessmen is in China to sign various trade agreements and to set up joint investment projects.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Returns Home From Visit

EA1611211394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, the foreign minister, returned to the country from Beijing at down today after a week's visit to the PRC during which he delivered a letter from Lieutenant-General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the republic, to his Chinese counterpart. His excellency and his delegation also held talks with the Chinese side. They dealt with the strengthening of bilateral relations and reinforcement of economic cooperation between the two countries.

[Beijing] China Radio International interviewed Dr. Abu-Salih on the results of his visit to China. He said his talks with Chinese officials had been fruitful and constructive in that viewpoints had concurred on various issues. He added that the two sides agreed to work under the new world order by emphasizing peaceful coexistence, rejecting hegemony, and refraining from interfering in the affairs of others. The foreign minister said agreement had also been reached on sustained bilateral cooperation in an expanding sphere in the hope of the cooperation reaching strategic levels.

During the interview, Dr. Abu-Salih reviewed all the government's peace efforts within the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative. He stressed Sudan's determination to solve the southern problem within the framework of a united Sudan. His excellency referred to the government's efforts to activate the peace process from within, drawing attention to the role of the Supreme Council for Peace in this respect.

The minister dealt with the vicious campaigns being launched by the western states against Sudan, saying the west was prejudiced against Sudan's cultural orientation. He said the biased allegations being hatched against Sudan under pretext of human rights were totally baseless. He said Sudan's record was honorable in this field. His excellency added that Sudan had begun a dialogue with the United States and Western states to rectify these concepts.

On the government's stance toward the Middle East negotiations, Dr. Abu-Salih affirmed that Sudan, in principle, supported all the Arab options so that a just and comprehensive peace was achieved in all the arenas of negotiation. He expressed the hope that all the Arab issues would be resolved to enable the Arabs to channel their future efforts into economic cooperation.

Speaker Calls For 'Serious' Dialogue With Egypt

EA1611151994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, has confirmed that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are special because of the ties uniting the two brotherly peoples.

He said temporary differences between the two countries could be overcome by objective, serious dialogue. That came during his excellency's meeting, in his office today, with Mr. (Toffson), the visiting coordinator of the World Peace Committee.

Khalifah acquainted himself with the aims and activities of the committee and the sphere of its work. (Toffson) explained that the committee has been doing good work in Korea and Europe and that it pays great attention to Egyptian-Sudanese relations. He expressed the hope that the committee's efforts would be successful in thawing the ice between the two countries.

Talks With IMF Mission End at Finance Ministry

EA1011222094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks with the IMF mission ended at the Finance Ministry today after a review of the economic performance and the payments situation. The mission will submit its report for study by the fund's administration at its meeting in January next year. It is worth mentioning that the mission confirmed the real growth of the national income as being no less than 7 percent this year with an increase in exports expected. The mission also commended the exchange rate policy which has led to the stability of the rates, as well as the regularity of the payments of installments on agreed dates.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Gulf Representatives End Meeting, Stress Cooperation

NC1611194094 Paris AFP in English 1646 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Nov 16 (AFP)—Kuwaiti MPs and members of consultative councils of the five other Gulf Arab monarchies ended a four-day meeting here Wednesday [16 November] aimed at promoting coordination, the first such meeting of deputies.

In a joint statement, the participants praised "the achievements by the leaders of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to boost cooperation ... within Islamic shari'ah (law)."

The meeting in Kuwait City, which opened Sunday, was the first of its kind since the creation of the GCC in 1981.

Delegates were to draw up recommendations to put forward to the next GCC summit, scheduled for December 19 to 22 in Bahrain.

Only host county Kuwait has an elected parliament, the other members of the GCC—Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—having appointed councils.

Kuwait proposed a joint parliamentary structure during the meeting but it was rejected by three GCC members, the official Gulf press reported.

Kuwaiti parliament speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun told the official UAE news agency WAM Wednesday that it was "natural that such a proposal should be studied first by the Gulf councils and set out to officials."

He said "the main objective of the meeting was to send out a clear message to the international community that the Gulf countries have the same single destiny."

In the opening session, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah thanked other GCC members for their support in the latest crisis with Iraq.

Baghdad massed troops on the border with Kuwait last month, prompting the United States, Britain and GCC countries to send forces to the emirate, fearing a replay of the August 1990 invasion.

GCC Trade Ministers Discuss Cooperation in Riyadh

LD1611155094 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Their excellencies the ministers of trade of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member-states held the 21st meeting of the trade cooperation committee at the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General in Riyadh this morning. At the beginning of the session His Excellency Dr. Sulayman al-Sulayimm, the Saudi trade minister and chairman of the meeting, made a speech welcoming the trade ministers. He pointed out that since the last meeting of the committee the Middle East region in general, and the Arabian Gulf area in particular have seen important events which have had various different effects. He said:

"There is no doubt that the Arabian Gulf states proved to the world their cohesion and firmness and their ability to apply all circumstances, regardless of their negative effects, in favor of consolidating progress, unity, and unified decision-making."

Kuwait

Ministers Welcome Security Council Resolution

LD1611151994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1314 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 16 Nov—In its meeting today, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers welcomed the Security Council's resolution, issued last Monday, on maintaining the international sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Following the meeting, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, state minister for Council of Ministers' affairs, planning minister, and acting foreign affairs minister, said the council praised the firm and principled stance of the Security Council's member-countries.

The council expressed hope that efforts would continue to force the Iraqi regime to implement the international resolutions.

He stressed that the only way to lift the sanctions from Iraq was represented by Iraq's serious and complete implementation of all the international resolutions, in the forefront of which is the release of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees, and the adoption of whatever proves its peaceful intentions towards the State of Kuwait and the countries of the region.

On the other hand, the council welcomed the visit Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russian Federation prime minister, will pay to the country on 20 November, and stressed its importance in strengthening the friendship ties existing between the two countries, and exchanging points of view on numerous issues of common interest.

Finance Minister Denies Plan To Devaluate Dinar

LD1711100694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0856 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 17 Nov (KUNA)—Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, Kuwait's second deputy prime minister and minister of finance, categorically denied any intention by the Kuwaiti Government to devaluate the Kuwaiti dinar. Al-Rawdan told KUNA here today that "the Kuwaiti dinar is strong, and will remain strong, and there is no reason to devaluate it." Al-Rawdan's statement came on the sidelines of the meeting of governors of the Islamic Bank for Development which ended here yesterday.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Rawdan said that "the Kuwaiti dinar is connected to a basket of different currencies which protects it and strengthens its position. It goes up and down at normal rates."

In a reply to a question about the intention to secure liquidity by selling [word indistinct] Kuwaiti assets to cover the debts of the coming period, Al-Rawdan said "Kuwait will repay its [financial] commitments from various sources." He added: "If we found the investment returns better, we would do that even if it was from the reserves. [sentence as received] We shall examine all the options before us when the first instalment is due at the beginning of 1995." He pointed out that that will be determined by the state's general financial and investment situation. Kuwait's finance minister said that it would be difficult to deal with the issues in advance under these conditions, but that the general investment corporation has a plan which the board of directors approved on 9 November.

In his statement, Al-Rawdan affirmed that "repayment will take place according to a calculated and flexible plan." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Clinton Seen Trying To Save Political Future

MM1611153694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 94 p9

[Article by Huda al-Husayni: "Asian Facts"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] From an election defeat at home to a trade victory abroad, that is what the U.S. President was thinking as he moved from one world to another.

President Clinton left his internal problems behind and went to East Asia in the hope of securing economic agreements that would give U.S. industry a right to the protected Asian markets, believed to be the most promising in the world. In Indonesia, he discovered that bright economic prospects do not blind people seeking freedom and independence.

President Clinton always finds himself in an unenviable situation. In his country he calls for human rights in China, Vietnam, and Cuba. In Indonesia he tries to avoid any confrontation with the government because that would undermine his commercial objectives. It seems that his ambitions are much greater than his abilities. He supports plans for the creation of a free trade market extending from Alaska to Australia and from China to Chile, under the name of Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), but he is surprised to discover before arriving in Djakarta that students from East Timor had occupied the U.S. Embassy building there demanding independence for their island "as the only way of saving it." When he got there he said that he would use his influence positively in favor of changes in China and Indonesia. Today (Wednesday) President Clinton will raise the issues of human rights and East Timor with Indonesian President Suharto. [passage omitted]

President Clinton wants to save his political future through a major economic plan combining 17 states and half the world's population and controlling half of the world's trade. That would eliminate all the commercial barriers by the year 2020. So, in the eyes of the big powers, when political interests are combined with economic gains, human rights become invisible, be it in Indonesia or Chian.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Invited To Manama GCC Summit

JN1411153494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, containing an invitation to attend the 15th session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], slated to convene in the Bahraini capital on 19-22 December.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received the message here this afternoon when he conferred with Shaykh 'Isa Bin-'Ali Al Khalifah, envoy of the Bahraini amir and Bahraini labor and social affairs minister.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid hoped that the next GCC summit will add new bricks to the edifice of cooperation, fraternity, and solidarity built by GCC members in the interest of their peoples.

The meeting was attended by UAE Labor and Social Affairs Minister Sayf al-Jarwan; Shaykh Hamad Bin-Tahnun Al Nuhayyan, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Corporation for Industries; Bahraini Ambassador to the UAE 'Isa Muhammad al-Jami'; and several officials.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Radio Reports UN Statement on Kuwait Recognition

JN1611210094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Report on "text" of statement issued by the UN Security Council, read out by U.S. delegate Madeleine Albright at Security Council session on 16 November—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council has received a letter dated 12 November, 1994, from the Iraqi foreign minister addressed to the Security Council president. The letter encloses a copy of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 200, dated 10 November, 1994, signed by its Chairman Saddam Husayn, as well as the Iraqi National Assembly Declaration, also dated 10 November, 1994. Both letters emphasize Iraq's irrevocable and unconditional recognition of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of the State of Kuwait, as well as the international borders between the Republic of Iraq and the State of Kuwait, as demarcated by the UN Iraq-Kuwait Border Demarcation Committee. They also stress Iraq's respect for these borders in accordance with Security Council Resolution 833 of 1993.

The Security Council welcomes this development, and the Council's president sent a letter dated 16 November, 1994, to Iraq's permanent representative informing him of that. The Council notes that Iraq has taken this measure in compliance with Security Council Resolution 833 of 1993, and in accordance with clear and official constitutional procedures, it pledged to respect Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and borders as demanded by Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991, Resolution 833 of 1993, and Resolution 949 of 1994.

The Security Council believes that Iraq's decision constitutes an important step toward implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions. In the aforementioned letter, the Security Council president informed the Iraqi Government that the Security Council members will closely follow up Iraq's implementation of its decision. They will also keep under review Iraq's measures to complete its compliance with all the relevant Security Council resolutions. End of statement.

The United States and Britain had tried to block the issuance of the statement by the Security Council's Presidency and were content only to send a letter to the Iraqi permanent representative informing him of the receipt of the documents. But the rest of the Security Council's member states, particularly Russia, France, and China insisted on issuing a statement by the Security Council Presidency welcoming the Iraqi step and considering it an important one toward implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The U.S. Administration also tried to play with words and to use tough language but also failed to do that. The statement would have been issued last Monday but it was delayed because of the abortive U.S. maneuvers.

Al-Sahhaf on Blockade, U.S. Plans, Kuwaiti POW's

JN1611152794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1317 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has asserted that Iraq has overcome the most difficult stage, that it is now trying to eliminate the results of the conspiracy, and that it has registered the best example in the history of heroism and principles by confronting the strongest and the most dangerous challenges.

During a political seminar organized by the cultural grouping in Iraq on the second anniversary of its establishment, al-Sahhaf said that the Iraqis have excelled in confronting unjust resolutions and in foiling poisonous plans to besiege Iraq.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf pointed out that U.S. circles have been planning to eliminate Iraq as an entity in the region and that when they failed to do that, they planned to complete their designs through the United Nations.

He said that the resolutions issued by the Security Council have nothing to do with the history of that council and the United Nations because these resolutions are part of a new philosophy and policy that are inconsistent with the UN Charter and international law.

He asserted that the patience of the Iraqis and the wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn would certainly abort all forms of the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

The foreign minister also said that the blockade would be lifted partially in the first stage, after which Iraq would be able to export raw materials such as petroleum, phosphate, sulfur, and dates. Then, he added, a second step would follow and other forms of the blockade would be lifted regarding our imports of certain industrial products and materials.

Al-Sahhaf denied that Iraq was holding any Kuwaiti POW, and said that the Iraqi authorities spare no effort to collect information about those who were considered missing during the military operations in Kuwait.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also reviewed the impact of the collapse of the former Soviet Union on the region, as well as the U.S. move to spread its hegemony over the world instead of easing the tension and conflict that existed between the main poles of the two camps.

He added that the United States emerged from its conflict with the Soviet Union with a financial deficit of $3,800 billion [figure as received]. This, he said, prompted it to search for a way to reduce that deficit and decided that the best way was to take control of oil resources in the Arabian Gulf by reviving the Carter

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

doctrine as well as other doctrines that have been drawn up since 1976 to dominate the wealth of the Arab nation.

Al-Sahhaf asserted that a long time ago, the Iraqi leadership realized these designs, fully studied them, and understood their possibilities that began in 1990. He then recalled the speech President Saddam Husayn delivered during the Arab Cooperation Council summit meeting in Amman in February, 1990, which clearly referred to this reality.

Minister Views Deterioration in Transport Sector

JN1311115794 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov. 13, INA—Minister of Transport and Communications Ahmad Murtada Ahmad has said the war and the embargo have greatly affected activities and performance of transport and communication facilities.

In a statement to a local daily, Dr Ahmad said facilities and installations of this vital sector have fallen a prey to a barbaric and intensive bombardment by allied forces sine the early hour of the war.

He added that telephone exchanges have the lion share of the destruction, noting that the bombardment has caused the telephone services to go down from 6.5 per cent before the war to almost four per cent.

According to the minister the ministry was planning to cover some two million people with telephone services by the year 1995. The ministry was also planning to attain a coverage of 14 per cent of telephone services by the year 2000, saying that the embargo has impeded the implementation of the ministry's plans to raise and improve performance of communication sector which in consequence deprive people this vital service.

According to statistics, before the war, the country had a modern telecommunications network in both the urban and rural areas, serving millions of Iraqis through 900,000 telephone lines.

At least 400,000 of the original 900,000 telephone lines and a large number of microwave stations and towers were damaged beyond repair, while the rest were partly damaged.

The main microwave links connecting most of the cities were also damaged. This had an obvious negative impact on the operation of health and social services as well as humanitarian assistance programme. All international telecommunications were put out of service.

The reconstruction campaign going on in the country is attempting to reoperate a large number of telephone exchanges and rebuild a number of microwave stations and towers damaged during the war. The work requires manufacturing parts, maintaining or reinstalling other parts and completing the designs of networks.

According to surveys, even after restoration work, the system can still handle 30 per cent of its internal services, with most of the international communications remaining out of the service.

The minister added that the embargo has also greatly affected public transport system, especially in Baghdad city.

Before the war, there were some 1,200 buses working in Baghdad, said the minister, noting that the ministry was planning to increase them to 4,000 to facilitate transport inside the city. Now we have less than 1,500 buses working in Baghdad.

As regards railways, the embargo has caused a break down of large numbers of train wagons and locomotives as a result of shortages of spare parts and materials.

Moreover, the embargo has prevented the implementation of a number of deals and contracts to import parts needed to operate and repair trains, said the minister.

He added that the ministry has already laid down plans and designs and conducted studies to construct Baghdad modern metro which links all areas of Baghdad city together, saying that the ministry is currently considering the construction of similar plan in Mosul, al-Basrah and Bayji.

Minister Receives French Railroad Delegation

JN1311182094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Transport and Communications Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad today met with a delegation of French governmental railroad firms headed by (Raymond Bersuski), which is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they discussed the means of promoting Iraqi-French ties in the area of transportation. The talks also addressed the preparation of the necessary studies for the Baghdad metro project, as well as the use of French expertise to promote railroad networks and land transport in Iraq.

The meeting was attended by several directors general at the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Kurd Autonomous Region Council To Meet 5 Dec

JN1011205794 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 1 Nov 94 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad (INA)—The meetings of the fall session of the Legislative Council for the Kurdistan Autonomous Region will begin on 5 December. Council Speaker Baha' al-Din Ahmad told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the council will discuss during the coming session the reports of the standing committees—the cultural, education, awqaf, financial, agricultural, services, and grievances committees—on their activities in the previous period prior to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

approving these reports. He added that the council will review the situation in the Kurdistan Region and its developments in the absence of the government authorities and the law, and the means of maintaining contact with the sons of our Kurdish people and strengthening national unity under the principles of the great 17-30 July revolution and its achievements in all fields to ensure a free, respectable life for the people.

Speaker Ahmad praised, in the name of the council members and on behalf of the righteous sons of the Kurdish people in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, leader President Saddam Husayn's generous offer in providing school requirements to pupils and students in the region and continuing the supply of provisions under the ration cards, as well as health care requirements, despite the circumstances of the unfair economic blockade. The speaker pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn that all the righteous forces of the Kurdish people shall remain loyal to the strong unity of the people, both Arabs and Kurds, and the achievements which have been made under his excellency's unique leadership. The Education Ministry had supplied about 1.8 million textbooks and notebooks to the pupils and students of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

Two Kuwaiti Women 'Repatriated' by ICRC

JN1611183394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1724 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—The competent Iraqi authorities, in cooperation with an International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission in Baghdad, today repatriated two Kuwaiti female citizens.

In a statement to the press, the Foreign Ministry announced that the repatriation of the two Kuwaiti women is part of the effort to reunify thousands of Kuwaiti citizens in Iraq who are still awaiting the Kuwaiti authorities' approval of their return to their country.

The statement says that the women have been living freely in Iraq for years and that they applied to the ICRC mission to return to Kuwait. The ICRC mission recently informed us that the Kuwaiti authorities have allowed their repatriation.

21-31 Oct Airspace 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN0611132794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has again lodged a fresh complaint with the United Nations, protesting Iraqi airspace violations by U.S. aircraft, which were on missions of harassment and surveillance, not to mention their dropping of flares.

In a memorandum sent to the UN secretary general yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations said that during period 21-31 October, the aforementioned aircraft carried out 1,103 hostile air sorties over Iraqi territory, not to mention the reconnaissance sorties conducted and the flares dropped.

The Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations demanded that the memorandum be circulated as document of the UN Security Council.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabin Comments on 'Arafat Remarks, PLO Elections

TA1711095094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 94 pp A1, A2

[Report by Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel will make holding elections in the territories conditional on the cancellation of the clauses of the Palestinian Covenant which oppose Israel's right to exist and call for its annihilation. This was made clear yesterday by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who was speaking to reporters on his way to the United States. Rabin also said that the pace of progress in the negotiations on the interim arrangement will depend on the "Palestinian Authority's success in fighting terrorism in the areas under its jurisdiction in Gaza and Jericho."

Rabin reacted sharply to Yasir 'Arafat's remarks from the day before that the autonomy territories are "the first chunk of land taken back from the Zionist enemy." The prime minister said that he has not seen an authorized text of the remarks, but if they were made, they "absolutely contradict the Declaration of Principles and a pledge that 'Arafat made in a letter to me, after which we agreed on the mutual recognition between the State of Israel and the PLO."

Rabin noted that "the PLO is not the exclusive representative of the Palestinian people, with which Israel is conducting negotiations." Rabin added that, in anticipation of the resumption of the talks on expanding the Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and on holding elections in the territories, Israel will raise its demand that the Palestinian Covenant be amended. "This issue is very much connected with our ability to agree to elections in the territories," he said.

Asked whether the recent wave of terror makes it hard on the government to garner Israeli public support for the process, Rabin said: "It is not a question of public opinion, although public opinion does play a decisive role in a democracy." He said: "I believe, and I am discussing this with the government, that the important question is how far we can expand the process without getting caught in the uncertainty that the Palestinian Authority can deal with terrorism."

All Israeli security forces, mainly IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases in the Gaza Strip, are on high alert for fear of suicide terror attacks against Israeli targets. Reports received by the defense establishment indicate that there has been a rise in the number of extremist Palestinian youths wishing to join the Islamic Jihad and asking to commit suicide attacks.

A videotape was distributed in Gaza yesterday showing a squad called Men in Shrouds in which members of the squad, wearing white sheets, stated that they will carry out attacks "wherever the Zionists can be found," in military bases, settlements, and schools.

Senior military sources have said that dealing with suicide attacks is very difficult, and that the IDF and the security forces are preparing as required. A defense source has noted that, undoubtedly, that there is very much willingness to carry out suicide terror attacks.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, who is identified as the spokesman of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza and who turned himself in to the Palestinian police in Gaza Monday, was released after two days of interrogation and went back home. [passage omitted]

Further on Rabin Comments

TA1611154694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal in Los Angeles—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin landed here a short while ago. Upon arrival he spoke with reporters on board the plane. Rabin addressed several issues that currently concern the Israeli public. Referring to the grave remarks by Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza in which he called Israel the Zionist enemy, Rabin told us: I am not familiar with the exact wording of his address but, if his remarks were as you cite them, they absolutely contradict the Declaration of Principles and the letter of mutual recognition that Israel and the PLO signed.

Rabin stressed that amending the clauses of the Palestinian Covenant that do not recognize the State of Israel is a precondition for elections in the territories—in view of the resumption next week of the Cairo talks on the interim agreement.

We asked the prime minister several questions regarding the evacuation of settlements, and Rabin iterated an unequivocal stand: No settlement will move at this stage because moving them would establish a dangerous precedent for the permanent arrangement. The prime minister more or less outlined the map he has been talking about for the past several weeks, according to which Israel's territory will include Greater Jerusalem, the security border in the Jordan Rift Valley, and the 1967 border lines with various territorial changes. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rabin also commented on his current U.S. visit, during which he will hold discussions with President Clinton on, among other things, aid to Israel. Rabin said he does not fear that aid will suffer. I do not want to make prophecies about what will happen in 10 or 15 years, he said, but we see that both the Democratic and Republican Parties hold the same view on the issue and I believe they will continue granting us aid because we continue promoting peace while talking risks, which is a strategic goal of both Israel and the United States. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Official Protest' Submitted to PA Over Speeches

TA1711111594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has submitted an official protest to the Palestinian Authority [PA] about the instigative speeches at a graduation ceremony for Palestinian security service cadets in Jericho.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the protest was submitted by Brigadier General Dubi Gazit, the head of Israel's security committee, to his Palestinian counterpart, General Ziyad al-Atrash.

The Israeli Shin Bet has identified several fugitives serving with the Palestinian security services in photographs taken at the ceremony and defense establishment sources said that Israel was considering whether to demand the extradition of fugitives wanted for murder.

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, the adviser of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said that the integration of intifadah activists and fugitives into the Palestinian police was a natural development. Dr. al-Tibi told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the reactions in Israel to this issue were exaggerated and stemmed from a lack of understanding of processes within Palestinian society.

'Urayqat: Rabin Attitude May Cause Talks' Collapse

TA1711074694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The PLO official in charge of negotiations on elections, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, says Yitzhaq Rabin's statement [on the elections] is a mere excuse for not holding them and not carrying out the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment that, according to the Oslo agreement, must take place before the elections are held. Speaking to Qol Yisra'el, 'Urayqat said Rabin's condition could bring about the total collapse of the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] To come now and introduce this new condition, I think is a deliberate attempt on Rabin's part to really postpone the implementation of the whole agreement. And, to be honest, the Jericho-Gaza agreement cannot continue to stand on its feet alone. So I think this attitude of Mr. Rabin is leading directly toward the collapse of this agreement and the whole peace process we signed. [end recording]

Shahal on Government Policy Toward Orient House

TA1011163494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Nov 94 p A7

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zrahya]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "The government will not permit the Palestinians to establish governmental institutions in Jerusalem by the use of devious and conniving ways." This was said by Police Minister Moshe Shahal in the Knesset plenum yesterday at the end of a stormy discussion, interrupted by many catcalls, on political activity in East Jerusalem's Orient House.

Shahal divulged that a special ministerial committee headed by himself is closely monitoring activity in 27 Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.

He claims the Palestinians tried to conceal Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's visit to Orient House, thereby creating a provocation.

The police minister noted he is not convinced that Palestinian Authority [PA] officials are satisfied with the activity of Orient House personnel. Shahal said: "If the visits there are private in nature, we will not intervene, but we cannot accept visits of an official nature and attempts to give Orient House governmental status."

The police minister emphasized that the government, and especially Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, are looking seriously at any Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem.

Shahal added that the police [as published] have decided to draft a law aimed at preventing political activity in East Jerusalem in order to provide the law enforcement agencies with tools for acting against any political activity in East Jerusalem.

"The law clearly stipulates that PA institutions will not be located within Israel, and if such institutions do exist, the government will be authorized to close them down," Shahal said.

The police minister sharply criticized the Likud, "which accuses the government of turning a blind eye to political activity at Orient House." He claims that in 1992, Prime Minister Shamir decided to permit the opening of the place, which consequently became the home of the Palestinian delegation. Shahal asked: "Why are you speaking against Orient House, when it was the Likud that created the problem?"

Shahal claimed that in a meeting with Faysal al-Husayni and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad on 2 August 1994, al-Husayni guaranteed that no activities of a governmental nature would be conducted at Orient House.

Labor Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom said Israel should have permitted the Palestinians to turn Orient House into a sort of Palestinian embassy in Israel. He said this would have served two objectives: One, it would have enabled the Palestinians to host heads of state at Orient House while enjoying the immunity granted to any embassy; two, this would have demonstrated Israel's absolute sovereignty over Jerusalem, as well as the fact that "the Palestinians do not have any political standing there but merely one of a representative nature."

Moledet MK Rehav'am Ze'evi called on the government to close down Orient House, disperse its inhabitants and contents, deport Faysal al-Husayni from the country,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

boycott Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, and "protest to the Turkish Government over Turkey's interference in our internal affairs."

Sarid: Talk of Dialogue With Hamas Weakens PA

TA1211133994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid says that those who have recently proposed a dialogue with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are hurting the dialogue with the Palestinians, as the former will weaken the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the moderate Palestinian camp which recognizes Israel and rejects terror. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Sarid made these remarks at a conference of Arab CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] members.

Also addressing the forum, Minister Shulamit Aloni spoke of the Israeli Arabs' negative attitude toward collaborators. She said we are living in an era of conciliation and peace, and we would like to live without revenge, the settling of accounts, or assassinations.

Israeli Arab Community Warns of 'Intifadah'

TA1011115094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Arabs today threatened to start a popular uprising if Israel continued to settle collaborators from the territories in Israeli Arab settlements. This was stated today in a communique issued by the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee of the Israeli Arab Community in Nazareth. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel reports:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] The Israeli Arab community's opposition to the settling of several hundred collaborators in Arab villages inside the Triangle and in northern Israel was the reason for today's emergency meeting of the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee in Nazareth. At the meeting, there were bitter allusions to a malignant disease and complaints of betrayal, as well as calls to launch an intifadah or hire thugs to deal with the collaborators. Husayn Sulayman, the committee spokesman, enumerated the decisions reached today.

[Sulayman] At today's meeting of the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee, the following decisions were made with regard to settling of collaborators in Arab villages: First of all, the collaborators will be totally ostracized and denied all services. Second, Israeli Arabs who have rented or sold houses to the collaborators are hereby instructed to evict the collaborators. The lodging of collaborators is forbidden in the future because these people brought about a deterioration in moral standards in Arab villages and towns. Therefore, all those who sold or rented houses to collaborators are urged to evict them immediately. [end recording]

Attorney Says Legislation Needed on Land Exchanges

TA1111121994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir believes that the arrangement on the exchange of territory with Jordan should be done by legislation.

In a legal opinion handed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Ben-Ya'ir states that legislation is required for two main reasons: legal doubts about the government's authority to approve an exchange of territory based on the agreement, and the public and legal importance of the issue.

The attorney general announced that Jordan would be removed from the list of hostile states through legislation in the coming days.

In an interim opinion, the attorney general wrote that there is no doubt that any arrangement that includes territorial changes on the Golan Heights will also require Knesset legislation.

Editorial Urges 'Knocking Off' Extremist Leaders

TA1311104294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 13 Nov 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The Invention"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fundamentalist Islam seems to have come up with an invention against which there is no defense: A suicide terrorist can blow up any bus or military outpost, just as has happened in Tel Aviv and the Netzarim junction. The Hizballah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or Islamic Jihad leaders will always find a fanatical youth willing to die to go to heaven and to send Jews to hell. It is an "extremely dangerous underground that includes more and more suicide terrorists," as Peres said. This invention poses a new problem for the security forces, because traditional measures are based on the assumption that terrorists do not want to die.

Countries must not surrender to terrorism. There are three ways in which we must fight the new Islamic invention: first, by knocking off its leaders, even if this leads to acts of revenge; second, by improving defensive measures; and third and most importantly, by using political means.

Ari'el Sharon correctly stated that "the responsibility for the security of civilians and soldiers is not vested in 'Arafat, rather in the Israeli Government." It is clear, however, that the success of the struggle hinges on 'Arafat's willingness to confront the fundamentalists. When more than one third of the population in the territories supports the extremists, this becomes a difficult mission. Temporary detentions for display purposes

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the kind carried out in Gaza yesterday will not help. 'Arafat probably understands that unless he overcomes the Islamic factions, they will annihilate him.

'Arafat must also realize that unless he puts an end to terrorism the peace process will be stopped. Israeli public opinion will not permit the Rabin government to negotiate with the PLO while soldiers and civilians are being killed in an incessant series of attacks. It is inconceivable for the Israeli Government to expand the autonomy to Hebron, Nabulus, or anywhere else, when this will give Hamas and Islamic Jihad more areas of refuge.

It is true that stopping talks with the PLO would grant the Muslim extremists a prize for their terror acts. Israel, however, cannot forgo the right policy just to avoid doing a favor to the extremists. 'Arafat cannot continue holding the stick at both ends, continuing negotiations on the one hand, while ignoring terrorism on the other. Rabin also cannot continue the policy of pursuing the talks while ignoring terrorism. For good or for worse, Rabin and 'Arafat are two humps on the same camel.

Knesset Requires 'Tighter' Control of Army, Wiretaps

TA1611111494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Wiretapping by the army and the General Security Service [GSS] will be more strictly supervised, according to amendments to the wiretapping law approved by a Knesset Law Committee Subcommittee yesterday.

The subcommittee decided that the GSS should be required to report on all security-related wiretaps to a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

It also decided that security-related wiretaps on people who normally cannot be bugged—lawyers, doctors, psychologists and priests—which require a special permit from the prime minister, should also be reported to the attorney-general.

Finally, it said that wiretaps by the army or the GSS aimed at preventing security leaks should be performed only on specific target populations and for limited time periods, to minimize the invasion of privacy caused by wide-scale eavesdropping.

Yesterday's deliberations were part of a general overhaul of the wiretapping law proposed by the Justice Ministry. However, the subcommittee's decisions impose tighter controls on security-related eavesdropping than the ministry had suggested. [passage omitted]

Construction Sped Up on Electronic Fence Around Gaza

TA1611144194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is speeding up the construction of an electronic fence around the Gaza Strip. Military sources say 50 km of the fence have already been erected and 4 km remain. The sources say the army hopes to complete the fence by the end of the year. It also plans to finish a fence around the Qatif Bloc settlements within six months.

Study Alleges Torture of Muslim Prisoners

MS1711120294 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 17 Nov 94 p 17

[Report by Sarah Helm: "Israel Steps Up Torture of Muslim Prisoners"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem—Israel is continuing to torture Palestinians under interrogation despite the peace agreement, according to B'tselem the Israeli human rights group. Futhermore the severity of the techniques is expected to increase "in quality and quantity" after recent bombings.

Israel's methods of torturing prisoners in violation of international law have been well documented by the B,tselem in the past. They include:

Imprisonment under extreme heat, cold or filth;
Severe blows to the body with fists, sticks and other instruments;
Tying up the detainee for extended periods in painful positions;
Covering the head with a sack for hours or days.

One year after the signing of the Oslo accords between Israel and the PLO on limited Palestinian self-rule, a new B,tselem study, published yesterday, finds that torture remains common practice.

Although the Israeli army has withdrawn from the main Arab cities in Gaza and from the town of Jericho, Israeli forces remain in control of almost all the West Bank and the settlement blocks in Gaza. In the Israeli-controlled areas, therefore every aspect of the 27-year-old military occupation remains In force.

"Notwithstanding recent political developments in the region, it is difficult to discern any improvement as regards these matters. The habitual use of torture in the interrogation of Palestinian's continues," says the B'tselem report.

In recent days, reports citing Israeli security sources have revealed that a secret ministerial committee has given Israeli secret service officers a new license to torture Palestinian prisoners even more severely than before, especially in cases described as a "ticking bomb".

That term is understood to apply to situations, such as the kidnapping last month of an Israeli soldier, where information is needed urgently in an immediate crisis.

The Israeli Shin Bet, the internal security service, is already allowed to apply "moderate physical pressure" when interrogating prisoners. The Landau Commission, a highly controversial inquiry into Israeli interrogation

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

techniques, launched after the fatal beating by Israeli officers of two Palestinians, ruled that "moderate physical pressure" could be applied when immediate answers were necessary to prevent further fatalities.

The findings of the commission were condemned by all international human rights organisations as legalised torture.

Exactly what new torture powers Israeli officers have been given has not been revealed. B'tselem leaders said yesterday that they would probably only find out what practices are now being used when the victims are eventually released and able to give evidence. "We expect an increase in quantity and quality," of torture, said Yuval Ginbar, a Betselem leader.

Lubrani Critical of U.S. Economic Ties With Iran

TA1711112594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 94 p A2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the eve of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's U.S. visit, his representative who met U.S. Administration officials leveled very harsh criticism at U.S. policy on Iran, which harms the chances of peace. Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, two days ago met with Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team, and Martin Indyk, the White House official in charge of Middle East affairs.

After the meeting, Lubrani told HA'ARETZ that he made it clear to the Americans that the expanding economic ties between the United States and Iran stand in absolute contradiction of the dual containment policy, and harm the efforts to isolate Iran and to intensify popular pressure there against the government. According to him, the Iranians have no doubt that American companies that trade with them could not have done so in the absence of the administration's approval.

Lubrani pointed to "a serious contradiction between the Western and American rhetoric about the need to contain Iran or about the need to at least hold a serious discussion with it regarding its conduct, and the continued supply of economic oxygen, without which those people could not survive."

Lubrani said that the policy of appeasing Iran has failed and that Iran's main goal today remains sabotaging the peace process. He pointed at clear contradictions between the stern declarations by President Clinton, Secretary of State Christopher, and CIA head James Woolsey (who accused it of 35 acts of terror committed since Rafsanjani assumed power), and the practiced policy. [passage omitted]

Speaking at a closed seminar on Iran's situation, held at the Carnegie Institute which monitors that country, Lubrani said that the dual containment policy, which Israel supports, has so far failed in convincing Tehran to change its policy. According to him, this is a very negative message for the Iranian people. The same holds true for THE NEW YORK TIMES articles that advocated softening the relations with Iran, which appear to be "dictated from above," he said.

Lubrani said that the time has come for the United States to "change direction" from dual containment to effective containment. According to him, there are moderate elements in Iran, but they are not represented at the top government echelons where pragmatists, overshadowed by the extremists, can be found. According to him, "the Iranians believe that the statements by the President and other senior U.S. officials are made for domestic consumption."

Israel also complains that, while the top U.S. Administration is holding Iran responsible for activating Islamic terrorism worldwide, it is expanding the scope of trade with Iran and competing against Japan and Germany for the title of the largest buyer of oil from it. [passage omitted]

In the framework of the ongoing contacts between them, Israel made it clear to the United States that it has no trade ties with Iran, and provided the Americans with updated information regarding Iran's support of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Hizballah. Despite the fact that Israel is expressing its displeasure with the forgiving U.S. attitude toward Iran, there is no indication that the administration intends to impose an embargo on trade with that country.

In their contacts with Israel, the Americans maintain that in the absence of a comprehensive UN embargo on Iran, a U.S. embargo would be useless because Iran would sell oil to and buy products from other Western countries.

'Source': U.S. Election Results Should Nudge Syria

TA1311104094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Nov 94 p A8

[Report by Washington correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The political upheaval in the United States should lead the Syrian president to the conclusion that he must speed up the negotiations with Israel, an Israeli source in Washington said last night.

He said that Republicans like Senator Jesse Helms and Alfonse D'Amato, who will chair vital committees, with regard to Syria, are known to be very skeptical about its intentions and policies. [passage omitted]

The source also said the outcome of the congressional elections should not arouse concern about U.S. aid to Israel. "Many of the newly elected are pro-Israeli, at least in their declarations," he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Referring to the negotiations with Syria, the source said that the Syrian foreign minister's remarks about the resumption of direct negotiations with Israel in the wake of Christopher's visit to the region later in the month "are not anchored in reality" and were apparently aimed at the Syrian public.

In the meantime, the contacts between Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and his Syrian counterpart Walid Mu'allim continue in Washington.

U.S. Reportedly Not To Press for NPT Membership

TA1511121494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Nov 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States will not pressure Israel to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which is slated to be renewed next spring, U.S. administration officials affirmed in talks with Israeli representatives a few days ago. The U.S. officials said that "it would be unrealistic" to demand from Israel to take additional risks at present, in the midst of the peace process, and that the United States was not at all likely to try to apply pressure on the issue. Nevertheless, the United States would welcome Israeli gestures concerning the NPT.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said a few months ago that "he was not all that troubled" about the expected renewal of the NPT. He believes it is an ineffective treaty, as proved by Iraq, which went on to secretly develop nuclear arms even though it was a signatory to the NPT.

Israeli political sources have said there has been no change in Israel's position regarding the NPT. Israel has called for the creation of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons based on a regional arrangement and bilateral controls, but only after comprehensive and stable peace has been attained with all the countries of the region.

The United States has reservations about the position taken by Egypt, which has been trying to rally the Arab and nonaligned countries to oppose the renewal of the NPT if Israel does not join it. The Americans are particularly enraged about the cooperation on this issue between Egypt and Iran, which announced its support for the Egyptian initiative. According to Israeli officials, "the Egyptians will be made to understand that they are not getting their aid from Iran but from the United States." [passage omitted]

Israeli and U.S. officials said they are not at all worried about Iran's possible dropping out of the NPT. According to them, Iran has been striving to attain a nuclear capability and does not abide by the NPT anyway, and if it dropped out it would be possible to increase the international restrictions on the sale of advanced technologies to the Iranians.

"If it drops out, this will give more credence to the argument that Iran is not acting in good faith, and it will no longer be able to use its participation in the NPT as a cover," a senior Israeli official said. According to him, Iran is isolated and will not be able to persuade other countries to drop out of the NPT along with it. [passage omitted]

Commentator Fears Anti-Israel Bent in New Congress

TA1011180194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Nov 94 p 4

[Commentary by Sever Plotzker: "Not Only Clinton Is in Trouble; So Are We"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Clinton administration and the previous Congress (in which the Democrats had a majority) gave Israel and the peace process very strong financial and other support over the past two years. Now, with a conservative Republican majority, the picture has changed, and for the worse.

—There will be cuts in the U.S. Administration's budget. The cuts will encompass foreign aid, including assistance to Israel. We must start getting used to the idea that we will not receive $3 billion from the United States next year, as we have been getting up to now, and definitely not under the present terms. The Arrow ballistic missile Israel is developing with U.S. funds is also in trouble.

—The new Congress will have doubts about any aid to "the new Middle East." Republicans, who could not care less about Arab- Israeli peace or a war against radical Islam, have been elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate .

The Clinton administration wrote off Jordan's debt of hundreds of millions of dollars overnight, in a move approved by Congress. The same administration will now find it hard to write off debts for other Middle Eastern states if Congress is opposed, and it probably will be. There is a danger that U.S. aid, which smoothed the path for the wheels of peace, will run out.

—The conservative Congress might oppose investing in the Middle East Development Bank. It might rule out the administration's participation in Middle East water and agriculture projects. If it is profitable, the congressional leaders will say, let the business sector invest. Aid to the Palestinians will also cease.

Conservative Republicans still recoil from the PLO and especially from 'Arafat. They have not been convinced that the PLO supports a free market economy.

—People like doctrinaire conservative Newt Gingrich, the incoming speaker of the House of Representatives, and Senator Bob Dole, a long-time opponent of the Jews and the expected new Senate speaker, will do a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

great deal to trip Clinton up on his foreign economic policy, including the Middle East.

Powerful positions in Congress—the chairmanship of key committees—will be transferred to people who are definitely not friends of Israel, especially not of the Rabin government.

If a standoff between the President and Congress becomes an irritating permanent and paralyzing phenomenon in the U.S. political system, it will hurt Israel's interests and its influence.

These elections were not favorable to us.

Police Minister Meets With Iraqi Oppositionist

TA1611175894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moshe Shahal, police and energy minister, held a meeting at the Ministry of Energy in Jerusalem with Samir Khalil, a representative of the Iraqi opposition. Our correspondent Kayid Zahir reports that many issues relating to the political situation in Iraq were discussed at the meeting.

Austria's Klestil Addresses Knesset

AU1611155794 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 16 Nov 94 p 27

["Excerpts" of speech given by Austrian President Thomas Klestil to the Knesset on 15 November: "Burden of History, Opportunities of Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult to describe the feelings of this moment. I am standing before you today as the first president of the Republic of Austria to visit the state of Israel. I am standing before you as the representative of the Austrian people who were and will continue to be linked in such a fateful way with the greatness and the despair of the Jewish people.

I am standing before you as a friend of Israel who not only knows the burden of history, but also believes in a chance for the future and the rediscovery of what we have in common.

I am standing here in the Knesset, the heart of Israel's democracy, in which, at my right-hand side, the Viennese citizen Theodor Herzl, the spiritual father of the State of Israel, looks down at us, but in which also, at the time of great alienation, the flag of my home country Austria was torn to pieces. Much, too much happened for us all to be in a festive mood at this hour. But the many meetings and talks in recent days were too hopeful and friendly for us to be entirely captured by the darkness of history.

Austria is and will always be a fateful country for the Jewish people. On Austrian soil, Jewish thought, the Jewish culture, and the Jewish identity at one time flourished in an unprecedented way and contributed many unique and indispensable elements to Austria's development and to the identity of a large region reaching far beyond the borders of the present republic.

However, it was also from Austria that the dream of the Jewish state originated almost 100 years ago. It became invincible when the Jewish communities in Austria and through Austrians found themselves into the abyss of their most terrible tragedy. There is no collective guilt of a people—the Jewish people in particular are aware of this because they have had to suffer from global accusations like no other people.

However, there is a grave heritage of history, for which we Austrians have also to assume responsibility. I think that whoever speaks about Austria and Israel, whoever really wants to understand what happened at that time and what must be done to prevent such an evil spirit from gaining ground again, must not spare himself facing the truth, the whole truth. This truth is complicated because the front line between perpetrators and victims at that time went right across the people, right across families, and sometimes even right across one and the same heart. It was on this fertile soil of entanglement between temptation and compulsion that the Jewish tragedy in Austria developed. It is on this fertile soil that repression was growing which in Austria delayed the working off of history and burdened a frank and trusting dialogue between our two peoples.

Many Shortcomings

Today we Austrians know that the admission of the whole truth took too long. We know that we spoke too often about the fact that Austria was the first country to lose its freedom and independence to the Nazis—but much too rarely about the fact that some of the worst henchmen of the Nazi dictatorship were Austrians. No apology could ever extinguish our grief over the holocaust from our memory. However, in the name of the Republic of Austria, I bow in deep sorrow before the victims of that time.

We know that for a long time we did not do enough and did not always do the right thing to mitigate the lot of the survivors of the Jewish tragedy and the descendants of the victims, and we failed too long to practice solidarity with those Jewish Austrians who had to leave the country humiliated and embittered.

As Austrian president and a citizen, I want to extend my hand to all those Jewish fellow-citizens of the past who have found shelter here in Israel and in other countries of the world, and may have waited in vain for a call from their old home country. But I also thank them for having kept a piece of Austria in their hearts.

Terrible Sacrifices

After all that happened, we Austrians have no right to claim reconciliation. In acting, we live on our memory,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

our knowledge, and our hope. History has taught us Austrians many lessons—mostly at the cost of terrible sacrifices. The price of nationalism was war and xenophobia. The price of dictatorship was injustice and unfreedom. The price of intolerance was racism and mass murder.

Today, half a century later, I am standing before you as the representative of a new Austria that has nothing to do any more with the former weak country that had doubts about its viability and its tasks. The fathers of the second republic met in the concentration camps and prisons of the Hitler dictatorship in order to implement the antithesis to Nazism. Austria has been a republic with a stable democracy and a pluralist society for a long time, with a strong economy and a high degree of social justice.

New Confidence

Millions of refugees from Eastern Europe and hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union have known this Austria as a watchtower of freedom and a champion of humanity and human rights. The growing Jewish community in Austria also shows that new confidence and a new sense of security are developing beyond all the memories and suspicions.

I do not see any reason why Israel and Austria should in the future not cooperate much more closely than before. This would require us to face the future in the knowledge of the past—and to build stable human bridges even more intensively, bridges that should lastingly bring us together.

Last year, a great Jewish museum was opened in Vienna that attracts visitors from all parts of Austria and the world. I am happy about this, but I also think that we not only need museums to document a great past, but above all a very natural lively present of living together. This summer, we invited young Israelis and Palestinians, young Jordanians and Egyptians to Vienna for a peace dialogue with the Austrian youth.

A Great Goal

This meeting was not only marked by the hope that the young generation would be better able to overcome the barriers of ignorance, false assumptions, and apprehensions. What they were trying was the implementation of precisely that great goal that will also be in the center of the oncoming religious trialogue in Vienna between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In the final analysis, it says: "Despite all our differences, let us be in agreement—and despite our agreement, let us remain ourselves."

I am happy that my young Austrian fellow-citizens who took part in the peace dialogue have accompanied me to Jerusalem—and that, along with their new friends from Israel, they are with us today.

The task that has been assigned to all of us—namely, the rediscovery of our common roots, the implementation of common interests, and the shaping of our common future—has already been carried out in their small circle. I hope this first official visit can also be a contribution to this great goal.

Shalom to the people of Israel—shalom to all of you!

Shahal Urges Quick Return of Unit in Haiti

TA1711120394 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Nov 94 p 18

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Police Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday asked Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to bring back the Israeli police delegation from Haiti as soon as its three-month tour of duty expires. Shahal also urged Peres not to send a second delegation to the island, as originally planned.

Shahal believes that the Israeli team carried out its mission in the best way possible, and there is no point in the continued presence of Israeli police officers on a distant island. "Our police force needs the officers here in Israel, not there," the minister said. "We made a significant contribution, which met with great appreciation, and fulfilled our duty."

The Israeli police delegation to Haiti left approximately 45 days ago. At the beginning of January 1995, it is scheduled to be relieved by a second group of Israeli representatives. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israeli Delegation Arrives in Amman for Talks

To Discuss Ties, Embassies, Land

JN1711121594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—An Israeli delegation headed by Uri Savir, the foreign ministry's secretary-general, is expected to arrive here on Thursday [17 November] for talks on establishing diplomatic relations between Jordan and Israel and opening of embassies in Tel Aviv and Amman, officials said Wednesday.

The officials said it was too early to say when a formal announcement will be made on the establishment of the diplomatic relations but said the date would depend on Mr. Savir's discussions in Amman.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 20 calls for the establishment of diplomatic ties within a month after the two countries formally ratify the treaty and exchange the documents of ratification.

His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the treaty on Nov. 10, thus effectively setting Dec. 10 as the deadline for the establishment of diplomatic ties.

The officials said the Council of Ministers was studying nominations as ambassador to the Jordanian mission in Tel Aviv.

"The Cabinet has a list of names, but it is not known whether anyone has been selected yet," said a senior official.

Other sources said "there were ideas on" where to locate the Jordanian mission to Israel, but would not elaborate.

The Israeli embassy is expected to be located in the Abdoun area near the American mission. Reports that Israel had bought a piece of land and has started building could not be confirmed.

The Israeli foreign ministry official said in Tel Aviv on Wednesday that a high-level Israeli government delegation will include senior members of both Israel's foreign and finance ministries.

The sides will discuss joint projects, including some raised at last month's Middle East Economic Conference in Casablanca, he said. Israeli officials will also scout sites for an embassy in Amman, he said.

Meanwhile, the SAWT AL-SHA'B daily carried the first advertisement offering tours to Israel and the occupied territories to Jordanians.

Israeli tourists started coming in on Sunday across the southern and northern crossings. Jordan has set a limit of 550 Israelis allowed to come in daily, and only 15 of them will be allowed a day to visit the ancient rose-red city of Petra in the south.

Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN1711122794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Uri Savir, secretary general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, arrived in Amman today. He heads a diplomatic and economic delegation which will hold talks on the economic aspects of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two sides.

The Jordanian and Israeli sides have begun talks on the implementation of the economic clauses of the treaty. A meeting will be held later today to discuss the aspects related to the establishment of diplomatic relations and arrangements to set up embassies.

Official: No Israeli Request for Embassy Site

JN1711111194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Nabil al-Ghazzawi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Ali al-Gharayibah, director general of the Land Survey Department, has said that the department has not yet received any written request from the competent authorities in the Israeli Government to buy a piece of land for an embassy in Jordan.

Answering AL-DUSTUR question, al-Gharayibah clarified that the process of buying land by any non-Jordanian, whether a natural or corporate person, must take place through the department. [passage omitted]

Officials End Talks, Agree on Committees

JN1711153494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian-Israeli talks on the economic aspects of some provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty concluded in Amman this afternoon. The Jordanian side in the talks was led by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister, and the Israeli side was led by Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Dr. Hani al-Mulqi, president of the Royal Scientific Society and member of the Jordanian delegation, said at the end of the talks that the two sides agreed to form a follow-up committee for the Jordan Valley project, in addition to two other committees. The first will be responsible for financing these projects and the other will follow up financial affairs and the West-financed projects in the Jordan Valley.

Exportation of Tomatoes to Israel Allowed

JN1611125494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, PETRA—Dr. Salim al-Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Establishment, has said that the exportation of tomatoes to Israel is allowed as of today, Wednesday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, he added that farmers and exporters who would like to export tomatoes, in any quantity, should contact the Agricultural Marketing Establishment to obtain the necessary permits, specifications, papers, and documents for the exportation process which will take place across the Shaykh Husayn Bridge.

He noted that this step has been made to support the Jordanian farmers and to open new markets for the Jordanian agricultural products which are known for their high quality.

Al-'Anani on Boycott

JN1711124994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The state-run Agricultural Marketing organisation (AMO) has issued permissions to export 800 tonnes of tomatoes to Israel, which is facing a shortage of the commodity after imposing a ban on import of produce from the Gaza Strip, officials said Wednesday.

It will be the first Jordanian exports to Israel after the two countries signed a peace treaty last month and formally sealed it by exchanging the documents of ratification on Nov. 10.

'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Sunaynah of the AMO told the JORDAN TIMES on Wednesday that the organisation, an umbrella body for all agricultural exports from and imports to Jordan, had issued permissions for 40 truckloads of tomato exports to Israel. Each vehicle will have a capacity of 20 tonnes.

But no actual shipment was sent across the border as of Wednesday noon since Jordanian exporters and Israeli importers had not reached agreement on prices and other commercial terms, he said.

"We believe that when agreement is reached, Jordan will be sending about 150 tonnes of tomatoes to Israel every day," said Mr. Abu-Sunaynah.

According to market sources, Jordanian exporters were demanding $1.75 per kilo of tomatoes while Israeli importers were offering only $1.50, and negotiations were continuing over telephone and faxes to arrive at an acceptable price.

But traders also noted that exporters were getting the price of nearly $1.75 from their traditional markets in the Gulf states, and there was no incentive for them to sell cheaper to the Israelis.

In the local market, tomatoes fetched around JD1.50 (about $2.15) per kilo on Wednesday, a price that, by definition, is a dissuading factor for exports.

There is also concern in the market that the exports would lead to shortages in the market and higher prices. But traders say that exports to Israel might only mean a reduced quantity going to the Gulf markets without affecting the actual market situation in the country.

According to Bashir Gazzawi of Irbid, who secured permission to export 200 tonnes (10 truckloads) from the AMO on Wednesday, the Israelis were demanding tomatoes of nearly American and European standards and packing specifications.

"We do have tomatoes of the standards and specifications sought by the Israelis but the price has to be right," said Mr. Gazzawi.

Israel turned to Jordan for its tomato needs when prices shot up to more than $2.50 per kilogramme after it imposed a ban on import of agricultural products from the Gaza Strip citing an outbreak of cholera there. It is not known when the ban will be lifted.

Mr. Abu-Sunaynah said the AMO stood ready to meet Israeli requirements of agricultural produce if Israel approached Jordan. So far, the requirement has been limited to tomatoes.

Jordan is a signatory to the Arab countries' boycott of Israel because that law remains on Jordan statute books—although the presence of Israeli tourists and the permission to export tomatoes seem to demonstrate it is no longer being applied.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told the Associated Press that although the peace treaty specifies that the boycott should be lifted, "there have to be legal measures adopted by the government to repeal the current Jordanian boycott law."

He said; "The intention is there, but this is a long process of outlining a law and sending it to parliament for ratification."

Earlier, the AGENCE FRANCE PRESS quoted an unidentified official as saying Jordan had lifted its economic boycott of Israel and drawn up new customs legislation following their peace treaty.

The end to Jordan's observance of the four-decade Arab League boycott of Israel was a "logical conclusion" of the peace treaty, said the official.

Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said Monday that the boycott, declared in 1951, would remain in force until Israel complied with U.N. resolutions and gave up occupied Syrian and Lebanese land.

Regulations for Travel to Israel Detailed

JN1311160894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 94 pp 1, 23

[Report by Khulud al-Ja'uni and Nevene 'Abd-al-Hadi]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Regulations designed to streamline the entry and departure of Jordanian and Israeli nationals via the Jordan Valley Crossing [the northern al-Shaykh Husayn Crossing] and the southern Wadi al-'Arabah Crossing have been issued. These regulations will go into effect as of today, Sunday.

To shed light on these regulations, we have interviewed Colonel Dhiyab al-Jalamidah, head of the Residence and Borders Directorate at the Public Security Department, who said that the necessary entry visas for Jordanian and Israeli nationals have continued to be issued since the day the ratified peace treaty documents were exchanged.

Al-Jalamidah added that the crossings will be open for entry and departure every day of the year except the start of the New Hegira Year and Yom Kippur, when the crossings will be closed. The crossings will be open every weekday, Sunday through Thursday. Work at the crossings starts at 0800 and ends at 1830 every day of the week except Friday and Saturday, which are official holidays.

Col. al-Jalamidah went on to say that for the first three months, tourism and travel offices in both countries will apply for entry visas for Jordanian and Israeli nationals to their respective interior ministries so that their arrival and departure may be arranged in tourist groups. Tourists from both sides will be taken to the other side by bus. From there, they will be transported by buses that will be provided by the tourism and travel agents of the other country. This arrangement will remain in force until a final arrangement is agreed on. Visa fees will be based on the principle of reciprocity.

Col. al-Jalamidah explained that the treatment accorded to Israeli Arab pilgrims, who hold Israeli citizenship, will remain unchanged at present. Also, the regulations and measures currently in force at the King Husayn Bridge and the Prince Muhammad Bridge will also remain unchanged.

The head of the Residence and Borders Directorate noted that during the three-month transitional period, 550 tourists will be allowed to pass via both crossings from each side. He added that 250 tourists will be allowed to cross via the Wadi al-'Arabah crossing and 300 tourists via the Jordan Valley crossing. Those tourists can enter the other side as part of tourist groups.

The Wadi al-'Arabah crossing was inaugurated on 13 August while the Jordan Valley crossing was inaugurated on 6 November.

Tourism offices in Jordan have begun receiving applications from Jordanians who want to visit Israel as tourist groups. Sources at the Jordanian Society for Tourism and Travel Agencies told AL-DUSTUR that the tourism offices are receiving applications which require information such as names, dates of birth, places of birth, passport numbers. Then comes the role of the Interior Ministry which is in charge of visas.

On 7 November, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities issued initial instructions on the ceiling for land transportation fees for tourists of all nationalities who will enter Jordan from the northern and southern crossings for the next three months, as of 7 November. The first part of the fees is as follows:

The fees for the air-conditioned buses that travel 200 km for 11 hours per day are as follows:

—A tourist group of more than 30 persons will be charged $360, and 94 cents for each additional kilometer.

—A tourist group of 30 persons or less will be charged $305 and $21 for each additional hour.

The second part of the fees is as follows:

The fees for mini buses, which carry between 15 and 20 persons and which travel 200 km for 11 hours, are $190, and 56 cents for each additional kilometer, plus $10.60 for each additional hour.

The Ministry of Tourism, which can change these fees as appropriate, said that these fees do not include sales tax.

No Change in Tourist Site Fee for Israelis

JN1611182094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 94 pp 1, 30

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities have said there will be no change in the short run on entry fees into the archaeological city of Petra, because these fees were decided and increased following extensive study and after the approval of all concerned tourist authorities.

Answering a question on the protests made by Israeli tourist offices and travel agents regarding these fees, and their threat to stop visits to Petra, these sources emphasized that such issues concern Jordan's sovereignty, and it is illogical for the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to bow to such demands and protests because these fees are imposed on all tourists who come to Jordan and not only on Israeli tourists.

Meanwhile, tourist sources expected Dr. Muhammad 'Affash al-Adwan, minister of tourism and antiquities, who is currently in al-'Aqabah, to telephone his Israeli counterpart to discuss the subject. The sources said the picture is still unclear and it is difficult to decide the next step. They stressed that there would be no change in fees, at least at the present stage.

Israel Reportedly To Expand Settlements

JN1411084094 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 15 Nov 94 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has started planning to violate the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty before the ink of that treaty has dried.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

– Responsible Jordanian sources said the Jordanian Government has received certain information saying that the Jewish Agency, the political-ideological arm of the Israeli state, has allotted more than $110 millions to develop and expand the Jewish settlements in Wadi al-'Arabah, including Israeli settlements on Jordanian land rented by Israel, which are under Jordanian sovereignty. These settlements are Tsuvah and Naharayim.

The sources added that the Jewish plan calls for constructing new settlements on the Jordanian-Israeli border and increasing the number of Jewish settlers in them.

Columnist: Peace Demands Removal of Settlements

JN1311115494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 94 p 30

["Spotlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "Violence Is Israeli Prescription"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest operation mounted by the Islamic Jihad in Gaza inevitably recalls the murder a week earlier of Hani 'Abid, a Jihad leader. The assassination is thought to have been the work of the Mosad in retaliation for the Tel Aviv bus bombing.

On the heels of the bombing, the Rabin government stated that it had made secret decisions to combat Palestinian "terrorism". The avengers of Hani 'Abid's assassination must have assumed his murder to be one of those decisions. Thus, thanks to Israel, the peace process on the Palestinian track has now become mired in a cycle of violence.

The signing of the Oslo accord was attended by much speculation about the Rabin government's intention to dismantle Jewish settlements in Gaza, seeing that they are, logically and realistically, at odds with the climate of peace. However, that purported intention never materialized. Instead, in the aftermath of each operation—even those carried out in Tel Aviv, the heart of Israel proper—Israel reacted by inflicting collective punishment on the Palestinians.

This less than realistic Israeli policy fosters pessimism and even fans the flames of extremism and opens the door wide to a cycle of violence that may even sweep away all the peace tracks.

This region has been plagued by decades of Israel's policy of aggression and occupation, a practice by which the Israeli leaders seem to be enthralled. They are after Arab capitulation and do not appear to care for peace. Israel even balks at implementing the Oslo agreement, which the Palestinians see as their first step on the one thousand mile trek to peace: The West bank, which Israel had promised it would vacate by last July, looks set to remain under occupation until July 1995.

Granted, it is not possible to get Rabin to change his convictions. However, the Rabin government can force its own peacemaking ideas neither on the Palestinians nor on any other parties. If Israel's stubbornness and attempts to have its own way persist, the entire peace process will then be in the balance. The peace process on all the tracks can succeed only if Israel begins to clear the mines strewn in its path; namely, the Jewish settlements.

Foreign Affairs Committee Welcomes Bosnian Decision

JN1311071794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—President of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Saturday [12 November] welcomed the U.S. decision to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina, saying the step should prompt other nations to launch serious efforts to end the "massacres to which the Bosnian people have been subjected."

Deputy Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti said he hoped the American decision will lead to a new era in which "U.N. resolutions will be implemented in a way that will bridge the gap between international legitimacy and international justice in order to end the suffering of many peoples."

The U.S. late last week decided to withdraw from the international naval blockade enforcing the embargo, but said Saturday it will not supply arms to the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

"I wouldn't say (the decision) will have no effect but I would not say it will have a significant effect because the arms embargo will be enforced by others," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was quoted as saying.

Jordan's permanent representative at the U.N. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah on Thursday criticised the international organisation for failing to properly address the situation in the war-ravaged Bosnia and urged an end to the arms embargo.

Addressing the Iraqi decision to recognise the borders and sovereignty of Kuwait, the prominent deputy said: "I hope this will be a prelude to ending the tragic situation in which the Iraqi; people have been living for the last four years."

Mr. al-Kabarati urged the Arab League to "break away from its bubble" and work towards the restoration of Arab solidarity and reactivating joint Arab institutions.

"The Arab League should at least work to bring about a minimum degree of solidarity which is a must as we enter a new historic era," Mr. al-Kabarati told reporters at the House.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ba'th, Pan-Arab Action Front Set Up Joint Committee

JN1311084894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 94 p 23

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Pan-Arab Action Front have decided to set up a joint command committee and create a mechanism to handle their joint political and union and cultural action.

A joint statement issued by the two parties sounded the alarm about the deteriorating Arab conditions. The ferocity of the Zionist-imperialist offensive is now such that Arabs should move to halt their discord and drift.

The two parties vowed to upgrade joint action by the pan-Arab, Islamic, and democratic forces in the Arab world. They also commited themselves to laying the foundations for action on the pan-Arab level by forging pan-Arab fronts in Arab states and Arab-Islamic fronts in Jordan and other Arab countries.

Attack of Newspaper Offices Thwarted

JN1711103294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has said that at 0415 today, there was an attempted attack against the offices of the weekly newspaper SHIHAN.

The source added that the competent security officials rushed to the newspaper's offices after hearing gunshots fired by the building's guard. They discovered two gas bottles, a detonator, and a battery. Security authorities are investigating the incident.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Hirawi Receives Second Clinton Message in Week

NC1711122794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today received U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ron Schlicher at B'abda Palace. The U.S. diplomat conveyed the second message in one week from President Bill Clinton to President al-Hirawi, in which the former stressed U.S. support for Lebanon.

Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent at the presidential palace, has the details:

[Begin 'Izz-al-Din recording] U.S. President Bill Clinton reiterated U.S. support for Lebanon and for giving it aid. He also stressed a commitment to Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and expressed hope that the next year will provide the opportunity for working together to make more achievements.

The message that President al-Hirawi received this afternoon from the U.S. charge stated: Lebanon celebrated its 50th independence and liberty anniversary last year. While entering another half a century of liberty, I congratulate you and the Lebanese people on your national day. An important year for the peoples of the region and for Lebanon has passed. Your people and its neighbors have pursued the long road to achieve a comprehensive regional peace. Much has been achieved and a lot remains to be done. But I am confident that the next year will give us the opportunity to work together to achieve this objective. The Lebanese people are proud of what they achieved in 1994. The government is committed to reconstruction and the reconciliation has remained firm. Hence, the people are looking to the year 1995 with much hope.

President Clinton concluded his message by saying: I would like to stress U.S. support for Lebanon and for giving it aid where necessary and reiterate our commitment to its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

That was President Bill Clinton's message to the president. [end recording]

Buwayz on Meeting With Israelis, Bush's Visit

NC1611194394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a new conference today, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz denied a statement by the director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry that secret talks are being held between Lebanon and Israel on the peace process. He said this statement is part of a continuous Israeli maneuver to sow suspicion and confusion among the Arabs, especially between Lebanon and Syria. Therefore, this statement is totally untrue. Lebanon is still committed to peace on the basis of the Madrid formula. [passage omitted]

Asked about the fate of Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army]—a subject currently under discussion in Israel—Buwayz said it is premature for us to explain the Lebanese Government's position on this lengthy subject as long as we have not discussed the basic topics yet. When we are sure that our rights have returned through Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese territory, then we will deal with the residues and effects of this occupation in a way that will solve this problem. [passage omitted]

Buwayz said Lebanon has not received any response from the Americans to President al-Hirawi's recent initiative. He said that last week he was informed that former President Bush is paying special attention to the subject of his visit to Lebanon. He is now considering the possibility of accepting President al-Hirawi's invitation [to visit Lebanon].

Dallul Opposes Reopening U.S. Marine Bombing Case

NC1611191094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 16 Nov (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that the Lebanese Government will open an investigation to determine the reasons for reopening the case of the bombing of the headquarters of the U.S. Marines and the French paratroopers in Beirut in 1983.

In statements broadcast this evening, Dallul expressed his opposition to and astonishment at reopening this case, which he described as an administrative and political issue.

Riyad Tali', the Chief Military Investigating Judge in Beirut, decided on Wednesday [9 November] to reopen the investigation into the two attacks, which killed 239 U.S. Marines and 85 French soldiers from the multinational forces. Judge Mani's decision has received negative reactions from a number of Chamber of Deputies members, particularly Hizballah representatives in parliament. However, Lebanese Chief Public Prosecutor Judge Munif 'Uwaydat denied today that the authorities had reopened the investigation into the two issues, adding that the case had simply been transferred from one judge to another.

Syria's Views on Marine Bombing Case Said Sought

NC1711074694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Press sources have learned that the two suicidal operations against the U.S. Marines and the French paratrooper headquarters were among the issues discussed during the recent meeting held in Damascus between Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Senior Syrian officials also took part in the meeting.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Sources briefed about the discussions said that the Syrian leadership's view on this issue was sought. Syria asked the reason that made the Lebanese judicial authority reopen the file, the reason for its timing, and whether there were any specific political considerations. It was understood that Damascus was not happy with this step, as [words indistinct] at this critical stage in the settlement process.

Deputy Muhammad Ra'd told our radio that national reaction condemned this step, and indeed regarded it as a ridiculous one lacking any sense of patriotism by those who took the step, especially as these operations, the cases of which have been reopened, were at the heart of the national liberation goals and of achieving Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. He said: Those who protected Lebanon and defended it and its identity and sovereignty at a time when this sovereignty was (?threatened) should not be pursued. He said: This does not appear to be a case of judicial confusion. Political and intelligence circles have reactivated this file for reasons that are known but the awareness of our representatives and our Lebanese people—fed up with the illusionary aid given by the countries of global arrogance under the slogan of Lebanon's interest and of helping it—have foiled such a ridiculous measure.

Answering a question, Deputy Ra'd said: The U.S. strategic goal is to bring down anything that mobilizes the Lebanese public to resist the Zionist occupation. This is a strategic [word indistinct] in U.S. foreign policy that backs the Zionist aggression and [word indistinct] organized international terrorism. It is not strange to see the Americans taking measures to serve this objective. But we assert that Hizballah's weapons are the Lebanese people's resistance against the occupation. No one in the world can wrest these weapons as long as our Lebanese territories remain occupied.

Effects of U.S. Decision on Bosnian Embargo Seen

NC1611140894 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 12 Nov 94 p 17

[Article by Fu'ad Hatit: "A Baffling U.S. Decision"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In principle, U.S. President Clinton's administration did nothing more than comply with a Congress law demanding a halt to U.S. participation in the embargo imposed to prevent weapons from reaching the Muslims of Bosnia and Croatia starting today, 12 November.

Following the electoral earthquake that shook Washington, obligating Clinton to go along with a Republican-led Congress, it can be said that the White House's decision to comply with the law is the first sign of cooperation.

In principle too the U.S. step will have no practical effect or influence. U.S. participation in the siege is limited. U.S. vessels monitor Serbia's coasts while French and British ones monitor the coasts of Bosnia and Croatia. The military embargo is violated from land and air. According to a Pentagon official, thousands, even tens of thousands, of ships have been searched since the embargo was imposed and only three were found to be carrying smuggled weapons.

The recent U.S. step does not break the military embargo imposed by a Security Council resolution. In other words, Washington will not supply Bosnia's Muslims with weapons.

But Washington is breaking away from the united position forged with Europe and Russia on the Bosnian crisis. You cannot rule out the possibility that the United States wants to "punish" Russia and some Europeans (France) for opposing its will to maintain the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

A breakaway from the stance with Europe and Russia is evident, because this step came a few hours after the Security Council's deliberations on a U.S. draft resolution to exclude Bosnia's Muslims from the weapons embargo in six months. These deliberations showed that at least nine of the Council's 15 members were against it, including four who have the right to veto.

There are still three days until next Tuesday for the Congress law to become final. If the Europeans and Russians sense that the U.S. step poses a grave danger, then the door will be opened for negotiations to find a formula acceptable to all in the U.S. draft resolution.

As it appears now and until all the repercussions become clear, the U.S. step appears to favor Bosnia's Muslims. Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic regarded it as "a ray of hope for a better future. It is an important moral achievement."

But this step must harm NATO. It will practically mean the end of the first post-Cold War joint military action (an action regarded as the start of giving NATO a new identity and role in the new era), hence you cannot rule out a negative effect on the situation in Bosnia, which has worsened such that it is threatening the specter of a Balkan conflagration.

Despite the recent developments in the battlefield, Bosnia's Serbs, who suffered the first military defeat since fighting erupted 31 months ago, are showing no signs of flexibility but are becoming more intransigent the more they come under pressure.

Now that Croatia's Serbs have joined the fighting in support of their brother Serbs in Bosnia, a new eruption of the situation in Croatia is not ruled out. In this case, the Serbs' strongman, Slovodan Milosevic, could not remain neutral and would be forced to reopen the border with Bosnia's Serbs out of fear of being accused of betraying "nationalism and religion" and thus kindle the war more fiercely than ever.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Ahmar Speech for Corrective Movement Aniversary

JN1611214294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1604 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, on the 24th anniversary of the Corrective Movement at Damascus University—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] O comrades; O masses of our militant nation; O esteemed audience: On this auspicious day 24 years ago, the grass roots of the great Ba'th Party, under the leadership of the great Ba'thist and populist Arab struggler Hafiz al-Asad, [applause and chants] branched forth to lead a move to turn the glorious March [1963] revolution from the course of hesitation, isolationism, and loss it was experiencing to the course of progress and revolutionary transformation, which is based on theoretical clarity, amenability to intellectual analysis, and tangible and concrete realities, with a view to achieving the objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism, which are cherished by the party and the masses through a sweeping and continuous construction endeavor.

O comrades: I am honored to have been asked to deputize for comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad [applause and chants], leader of our march, the symbol of our struggle, and the hero of the Corrective Movement, on this great occasion, and to relay to you, and through you, to all of our militant masses his best greetings and his warm congratulations on this great anniversary, the 24th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement. I would also like to relay to you the greetings of the leadership of our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and its wishes of further accomplishments and successes in the march of the great Corrective Movement, the march of progress and construction. [applause and chants] [passage omitted]

O comrades, O esteemed audience: Syria's pan-Arab policy maintains that all means must be explored, and that all the opportunities and chances provided by the current Arab circumstances must be used to cope with the weakness and impotence that have characterized the recent Arab state of affairs for external and internal reasons. We must exert fresh efforts to promote the cohesion of Arab ranks and nurture effective solidarity among the Arabs so that they may defend their existence and future.

In this respect, Syria seeks to promote all possible forms of cooperation with fraternal Arabs, on either the bilateral or multilateral level, in accordance with a modernist perspective that is grounded in the principles of fraternity and pan-Arab sentiments that bind all Arabs together and basically unify their entities.

Thanks to its tangible pioneering efforts, Syria has created a pattern of inter-Arab ties that is based on the principles of fraternal pan-Arab cooperation, coordination, and consultations with a large number of Arab states that shared Syria this noble objective. All our moves on the Arab scene have sought inspiration from the pioneering pan-Arab doctrine of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the initiatives launched by the great pan-Arab leader President Hafiz al-Asad [applause and chants], his rich intellectual and political contributions, and the course pursued by the Corrective Movement, which is grounded in his rich and exhaustive intellect.

This sound awareness of the essence of the contemporary pan-Arab existence has rendered Syria the major defender of Arab rights that upholds Arab banners in the skies of international relations, which are befogged with clouds. This has rendered the position of Syria and its leader comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] the paragon of the essence of the Arab nation, a symbol of its true picture, and an embodiment of this nation's quest for freedom, dignity, pride, prosperity, and fairness. Thanks to this adherence to basic principles and rights, the adherence that is based on a sound awareness and a wise intellectual reasoning of the contradictions plaguing our Arab state of affairs and its priorities, Syria has come under pressures and faced difficulties. It has grown to occupy a prominent international standing, and its struggler leader President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] has become the key pan-Arab leader, and one of the most important world leaders in the contemporary age—one who is known to be knowledgeable, wise, and courageous by his people, his nation, and the world at large.

President Bill Clinton's recent visit to Damascus came to underscore the attention world leaders accord to Syria's position, to the views of its leader, and to its important role in the region.

This stamina, as manifested in this qualitative and special leadership style and the person of comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], the righteous son of his people, has crystallized in the peace process a pioneering pan-Arab Syrian position that underscores Arab rights and exposes the dangers posed by the pursuit of unilateral solutions in the peace process—the unilateral solutions pursued by some Arab sides—, and also by the partial solutions to pan-Arab issues, particularly since these solutions promote Israeli interests and steer the peace process away from its constant principles and terms of reference upon which it was based in the first place.

Moreover, these solutions will weaken, first and foremost, the Arab sides that have walked this path. Syria and Lebanon will maintain their coordination, which aims to ensure the restoration of their rights, promote their negotiating positions, and underline the commonality of the Arab cause. The two fraternal countries have reiterated the inseparableness of their tracks of peace negotiations. Besides, they seek to enhance the bilateral ties of sweeping cooperation, which are based on the principles of fraternity, kinship, and common destiny.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

O comrades, O esteemed audience: Events and developments have proved that it is impossible to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region without Syria. Syria has repeatedly reiterated, through its struggler leader President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], its serious approach toward peace, and matched its words in this regard with deeds. It has emphasized that peace is a strategic option for it. It has continued to underscore the foundations and terms of reference of the peace process; namely, international legitimacy, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the principle of exchanging territory for peace. Syria would like to reiterate anew that it will not abandon any of its rights, and that it will not cede or bargain over its territory or the dignity of its people.

Also, it would like to reiterate that the achievement of peace requires putting an end to aggression and removing its effects through effecting a complete withdrawal from the Golan up to the 4 June 1967 borders, and also from southern Lebanon.

We have waged a protracted struggle to achieve just and comprehensive peace. We have waged several wars to achieve this objective. In the aftermath of the glorious liberation October war, we have demonstrated that the Arabs are capable of achieving peace, just as they are capable of waging war. Nonetheless, the peace that we are seeking is just and comprehensive peace, the peace that will return rights to their owners, and that will bring about security and stability in the region.

Our basic reasonable rationale behind all this is that peace and occupation cannot coexist. In the same vein, peace and aggression cannot coexist. As for Israel, it is the only world state that has continued to blind itself to this reasonable rationale, which is nurtured by common sense, supported by the entire world community, acknowledged by the cosponsors of the peace process, underscored by international law, and cherished by norms.

Israel has continued to evade the obligations it has to honor in compliance with the principles and bases of the peace process. It has procrastinated, and failed to articulate a clear commitment to complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

O comrades: Whoever is endowed with sound judgment is bound to wonder how peace can be compatible with the stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons. How can our region live in security and stability while Israel has continued to augment its arsenals of all kinds of weapons, including nuclear weapons? Worse still, Israel has rejected the international supervision of its nuclear installations, flouting the general international desire to supervise such installations all over the world.

The achievement of peace in the region also requires the dismantlement of mass destruction weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, so that all peoples of the region may live in security, peace, and stability, away from aggression or threats of aggression, and also away from all attempts at domination and hegemony.

Moreover, Israel's efforts to deal with the Arab sides one at a time, and its endeavors to penetrate the Arab scene and change it in its favor without committing itself to withdrawal from Arab lands and dismantling the occupation will not bring the region closer to true peace. As a matter of fact, this will place fresh obstacles in the way of the peace process.

Only just and comprehensive peace, which is grounded in international legitimacy, can bring about security, stability, and peace.

O comrades, we would like to reiterate the statement repeatedly made by comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] to the effect that each and every inch of the homeland's soil epitomizes the entire homeland, that the homeland's territory and man's dignity are insuperable, and that if the peace process does not take this principle seriously, we will fail to reach the objective of achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region, which is cherished and sought by all peoples of the region.

O comrades; O esteemed audience: The glorious Corrective Movement, its sound course, and its sweeping transformations, which have restored the essence of the great March revolution, is a significant and effective factor that complements other militant moves on the international scene—the moves that, all in all, reflect the peoples' struggle to create a new world, a better world based on democracy, equality among nations, uniformity of standards, fairness, and respect for the peoples' right to freely choose their own way to development. In this new world, all forms of aggression, war, domination, and discrimination must be banished. In this world, peoples must cooperate with one another positively, and make contributions toward the advancement of man's civilization to help bring about further progress and prosperity.

O comrades, we are optimistic about the Arab future. Likewise, we are optimistic about the future of mankind on this planet, regardless of all the difficulties facing peoples in the course of their struggle. Our optimism is derived from the faith we have in our masses' potential, in their adherence to their principles, in their willingness to make sacrifices to uphold these principles, and in the greatness of our nation and its ability to continue its cultural march. Similarly, this optimism is derived from the soundness of our course, and our leader's wise, courageous, and expert ability to address the challenges posed by the changing world and handle all kinds of new developments.

At this rally, we would like to reiterate the pledge of allegiance to the leader, the people, and the nation. We will continue the march, and reinforce and strengthen the course of the Corrective Movement in order to adopt

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

it as a way of life and as a doctrine of ceaseless and enduring struggle until the achievement of our nation's major objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism.

On this occasion, I would like to salute all those who have upheld the banners of the revolution, the strugglers of our party and our people's masses, who have contributed to promoting the course of the Corrective Movement through their work and sacrifices at all work sites. [applause]

I would also like to salute all Arab strugglers wherever they are, for they are struggling to promote the nation's progress and prosperity and to vindicate its existence and destiny. [applause] Greetings to our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the masses' vanguard. [applause and chants] Greetings to the righteous martyrs, the noblest of people on earth. Warm greetings struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the hero of the Corrective Movement and the leader of our people and nation in the march of construction, freedom, and unity.

Peace be upon you. [applause and chants]

Damascus TV: Jordan Ending Israel Economic Boycott

JN1611204594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian Government has completely ended the boycott of Israel and drafted a bill on customs annulling the clauses pertaining to the boycott of Israel. A Jordanian source said a special committee drafted a bill which will be presented to the Government and then to parliament for ratification.

A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry today said a high-level Israeli government delegation will visit Amman tomorrow, Thursday, to hold economic talks. The delegation comprises senior officials from the Foreign and Finance Ministries. The two sides will discuss joint ventures that include some of the projects raised during the Casablanca summit. The Israeli officials will also inspect sites to establish an embassy in Amman.

Paper: Israel Works Against U.S. Peace Efforts

JN1711101894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Editorializing on the peace process and the U.S. attitude toward it, TISHRIN says: The United States has stated that there is no political reason behind the postponement of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region. Washington has also said the visit will take place during the first week of December. Washington has thus denied statements by senior Israeli officials who criticized Syria and leveled false accusations against it, by claiming that its position on the peace process is what made Christopher delay his visit.

The paper says that Israel—through its attempts to cast doubt on Syria's serious, true desire for peace—confirms that it is the party that does not want peace and is obstructing the efforts for peace. Israel is also blaming others for the faltering steps of the peace process in the region, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, despite the fact that it is to blame for the lack of progress toward a peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the land-for-peace principle, and ending its occupation of the Golan and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds that Israel's attempts have been exposed. It is no secret that these attempts aim to circumvent the international political efforts, especially U.S. efforts, and prevent the United States from understanding the principles and constants to which Syria adheres to reach a just, comprehensive, and durable solution in the region.

The paper concludes: Israel is working to prevent U.S. political efforts from achieving positive results with regard to the requirements of peace, primarily withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Air Force Strikes Hekmatyar Base in Lowgar

LD1611152694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1330 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An important base of the Golboddin [Hekmatyar] militia was destroyed in the Wakhjan area of Lowgar Province. Reports received by the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY say that as a result of bombardment by the Air Force, a well-known Golboddin commander base in Wakhjan was destroyed, in addition to a tank and an artillery piece deployed at the special guard unit.

The bomb hit the unit when the Golboddin militia were holding a meeting to discuss increasing rocket attacks on Kabul. It is reported that the bombardment injured 12 militiamen, however no reports have been received about any fatalities.

Government Planes Bomb Civilian Areas in Kabul

LD1611140694 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The hireling coalition administration yesterday bombed areas in southern Kabul. A correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports that warplanes of the Supervisory Council twice bombed civilian areas in southern Kabul—yesterday morning and afternoon. [passage indistinct]

Foreign Minister Meets Iranian, Pakistani Envoys

LD1611180594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this morning in his office with Mr. Gholam Reza Haddadi, Iran's ambassador to Kabul.

At this meeting, talks were held on the strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries and Iran's urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Kabul.

Esteemed Dr. Lafra'i also met this morning with [name indistinct], Pakistan's envoy to Kabul. At this meeting talks were held on [words indistinct] relations between the two countries and other subjects of mutual interest.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Rebuts Newspaper Accusation

NC1611160294 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Nov 94 p 2

["Complete response" of Foreign Ministry to the 2 November JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commentary entitled "The Foreign Ministry—Why the Silence? Why the Stagnation?" and JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reply]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper has accused the Foreign Ministry of keeping silent on such issues as the compromise between the Zionist regime and the Arab countries and the Casablanca session, based on its view that the Islamic Republic of Iran's system is not a single unit. This is despite its earlier mentioning that the official departments of the country should not be considered analogous to various groups or factions and that they should be expected to have separate stances on topics.

The Foreign Ministry functions under the supervision of the esteemed president along with the other political departments of the country, and all these are overseen by the great leader the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult] as members of one unit under the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Whenever even one of these departments adopts a stand regarding a specific issue in the field of foreign policy, it is considered the international stand of the entire country. The greater the responsibility of a particular department, the stronger its particular stance.

Based on this, all viewpoints expressed by the great leader, the president, the vice president, the minister, the deputies, the spokesmen, and other officials of the Foreign Ministry are considered the country's official stance. Under these circumstances, there is no need for the stance to be repeated by each and every individual. In addition, in international parlance, the stance of the country's official news agency, radio, television, and subsequently of the newspapers are also, in a way, considered to be the country's official position.

2. In view of the above, the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently displayed firm and independent stances in the field of foreign policy on sensitive issues in the region and the world. It is due to this independent, lucid, and powerful approach that it has been subjected to intense political and propaganda pressure by the West, spearheaded by the United States and international Zionism.

3. Just as you have witnessed in the mass media yourself and in the press, the Foreign Ministry has on occasion expressed its stance preemptively; on other occasions, as it deems expedient.

For example, the accord between Jordan and the Zionist regime was commented on very clearly by the spokesman a few days before the signing, and, a day after the signing, it was also strongly condemned in a radio-television interview by a deputy foreign minister.

The newspaper chose to ignore this overt and distinctive stance and has said evasively, "The Foreign Ministry did not display any stance."

In the same radio-television interview, the Foreign Ministry's stance was categorically stated on the Casablanca session a few days before it began. When the session ended, the Foreign Ministry expounded its stance regarding what transpired at the Casablanca session and its anti-Islamic bias.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In all the instances mentioned in the referent article, including the inroads being made by Zionism into the Persian Gulf, deployment of the foreign forces in the region, Iraq-Kuwait tension, the British Government's stance regarding the Abu Musa island etc., the Foreign Ministry has taken clear and forceful postures through various means, and these have been reflected in the domestic and foreign mass media as well as the newspaper in question. It is not known why the author of the article in that newspaper [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] deliberately chose to ignore all these stances.

4. We hope that JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI will correct its views with regard to the ways in which the stances of the various departments of the Islamic Republic of Iran are conveyed on important issues, instead of accusing it of silence and stagnation. The newspaper should—with a little effort and activity—follow the stances of the Foreign Ministry, which are propounded in various ways and through various political authorities—not just a spokesman, the media, or the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper.

Reply by the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Newspaper

You have perused the complete response by the Foreign Ministry. You must have certainly concluded after doing so that, even if there were no documentation to prove the stagnation and silence of the Foreign Ministry with regard to the important events in the Islamic world especially in the Middle East, this very response is a clear and eloquent testimony of the veracity of our assertions.

It is truly amazing that our Foreign Ministry, with all its breadth, has been unable to provide a logical and convincing response and had to resort to statements and even accusations, which it cannot prove, to affirm that it is not afflicted with silence and stagnation!

We will present a detailed critique of the weak and, in certain cases, unjustified performance by the Foreign Ministry on another occasion. We will touch on the points mentioned in the Foreign Ministry's response:

1. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI considers the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran a cohesive whole but believes that, within this single unit, each member has a function. The duty of the Foreign Ministry as one such member is the declaration of the official stance of the system with regard to foreign policy.

As has been observed, at times all the members of the system do something which is the responsibility of the Foreign Ministry, because the latter does not display a timely reaction. This is, in itself, the clearest indication of the stagnation reigning over the Foreign Ministry.

2. It is true that the Islamic Republic of Iran is constantly under intense political and propaganda pressure from the West spearheaded by the United States and international Zionism but the Foreign Ministry does not have the necessary dynamism to cope with these pressures. If it had a precise and comprehensive assessment of the political situation in the world, it could combat such pressures by a timely declaration of its stances in an appropriate manner and could even put the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a defensive position.

3. Resorting to a press interview by some officials of the Foreign Ministry without propounding documented and acceptable premises is not as acceptable or logical as a timely declaration of the official stance.

In most of the cases mentioned, such as the UAE issue, the action by the Foreign Ministry could be considered timely; but, even in those cases, the stances of the press were far more vociferous and articulate than that of the Foreign Ministry.

The fact that the Foreign Ministry has just remembered—out of sheer necessity to uphold its allegations—that the press is also part of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is very heartwarming! However, this honorary membership does not imply that, if the newspapers assume a specific stance regarding a foreign policy event, the Foreign Ministry is absolved of declaring its stance. We do not consider the Foreign Ministry a retired member of the system.

4. In view of the above points it is astonishing that instead of imbuing a greater dynamism in itself and extricating itself from its silence and stagnation, the Foreign Ministry is advising the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI to rectify its viewpoint! What is more important is that the Foreign Ministry is accusing JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI of the crimes of criticism and seeking pretexts, which is something the Foreign Ministry will have to substantiate.

The fact that JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI has criticized the Foreign Ministry of silence and inertia or unjustifiable political moves is not because it wishes to cast aspersions on the sincerity and honesty of the officials of the Foreign Ministry. It is obvious that there is no relation between political ineptitude and lack of sincerity and integrity, as there are individuals who are very devout and sincere but do not have a very high level of political acumen.

It is not known why the Foreign Ministry—instead of responding to the principled and poised criticism of the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper—resorted to accusations such as "seeking of pretexts!" Do these unprincipled methods pursue any other objectives besides evading the criticism of the newspaper on unjustifiable actions, such as the unnecessary political shuttling back and forth to countries whose governments are vying with one another to be brokers of Zionism and infuse momentum into the compromise between despotic Israel and reactionary Arabism?

In any case, we hope that the custodians of our foreign policy will accept our principled criticism with broadmindedness; and, by availing themselves of the opinions of those who empathize with the revolution and the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

system, they will seek to extricate the Foreign Ministry from this lassitude and silence and transform it into conformity with the revolutionary system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Unofficial Dealing in Foreign Currency Banned

LD1611195694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The cabinet has imposed a ban on the selling and buying of foreign currency outside the regulations of the Central Bank and on any type of transaction that entails the transfer of foreign currency payment. It has also decided to ban the import or export of the national currency without complying to Central Bank regulations. The ban also applies to the failure to adhere to foreign currency undertakings.

In today's cabinet meeting, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, it was furthermore decided that as a punishment, offenders are to pay a fine of up to twice the amount of money that is the subject of the offense. This is in addition to the confiscation of either the foreign currency itself or its equivalent in rial. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Speaks on Petrochemical Industry

LD1611132694 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—The production of petrochemical products will reach a record high of 15 million tons annually by the end of the second 5-year development plan (1995-1999), if dlrs. 3.8 billion is injected into the industry, a high ranking oil ministry official was quoted as saying Wednesday [16 Nov].

"A new Majles act stipulates that the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) provide dlrs. 1.8 billion of the aforesaid amount and the remainder be met through domestic and foreign investments," said Deputy Oil Minister Ahmad Rahgozar in an interview with the English language daily 'IRAN NEWS'.

Rahgozar, also managing director of the NPC, said that Iran should raise the necessary financing, if it wanted to maintain its industry posture internationally. "The second plan aims at channeling 60 percent of total production to exports and the remaining 40 percent to provision of the domestic market's requirements," he said.

Turning to carbon output of the country, he said that the Ahvaz carbon factory was scheduled to start operation in December 1994 with a production capacity of 21,000 tons. "This will effectively boost the carbon output level to 42,000 tons," he said.

Rahgozar added that the pvc unit of Bandar Imam petrochemical complex is to go on stream in January with an expected output of 175,000 tons a year thus increasing Iran's plastic production to 600,000 tons.

By the end of the Iranian year 1374 (March 20, 1996), ten petrochemical projects will have been implemented, he said adding that by March 1995, a melamine factory in Orumiyeh will become operational with a capacity of 3,000 tons. He added that the second phase of the Arak petrochemical complex is scheduled to be inaugurated in February 1996 to produce paint, anti-freeze, acetic acid as well as medicines such as aspirin.

The Tabriz and Khorasan units are to start operation in 1996 with (?estimates) of 500,000 tons of urea and 300,000 tons of plastics, respectively, the official was quoted as saying.

The aggregate production is expected to reach 8 million tons during the current Iranian year (ending March 20, 1995), he said adding that the target figure is 10 million tons. "The gap is to be bridged during the succeeding year (March 1995-March 1996)," he stressed.

Azeri Oil Deal Viewed As 'Politically Significant'

MS1411134094 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 14 Nov 94 p 17

[Report by Mary Brasier: "Iran Takes Stake In Caspian Oil Project"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has taken a 5pc stake in the $7 billion British Petroleum-led project to develop oil wells in the Caspian Sea.

An agreement signed on Saturday between Iran's oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, and the national oil company of Azerbaijan, which owns the fields, will transfer a quarter of the Azeri company's 20pc stake in the development consortium to the Iranians.

In exchange, Iran is likely to contribute between $300m and $350m in "financial and technical co-operation towards implementation of the oil project", according to Mr Aqazadeh-Kho'i. Total investment is expected to reach $8 billion.

The consortium, which includes western oil companies, the Azeris and the Russians, plans to produce four billion barrels from three fields.

The Iran deal will be viewed for its political rather than financial significance. The Azeris are under pressure from Russia, which dislikes the loss of its influence over an important area of natural resources.

State oil company Lukoil won a 10pc stake in the production consortium but the Russian foreign ministry refused to recognise the agreement with western oil companies.

First ECO-UN Meeting on Transportation Opens

LD1511150094 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—The first meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

(ECO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) opened in Tehran Tuesday [15 Nov] to study the impact of ECO's joining international conventions in transport area.

ECO's member states including Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic are working together to improve and develop the existing road network and other transport facilities of the member states and exchange views on the agreements already reached between ECO and ESCAP. ECO and ESCAP held negotiations with some European countries on ways of carying out the joint plan.

Representatives from the Tehran offices of ESCAP and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) are attending the three-day meeting.

Iran's deputy minister of roads and transport, Mohammad Esmail Qa'em Maqami said that some countries in western Asia despite their excellent geographical situation were still lacking modern means of transport. This was because these countries have not been practicing free trade for a long period of time. These countries have not had the expected growth in trade exchange, he said. Qa'em Maqami emphasized modernizing the existing transport facilities of the member states.

ESCAP's secretary for transport, Mr. Rahmatollah said that the rapid economic development in Asia and the Pacific necessitated more land transportation facilities in national and international level.

IRNA, AZER-TAJ News Agencies To Cooperate

LD1611190194 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Nov. 16, IRNA—Visiting managing director of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA), Fereydoun Verdinejad, and head of Azerbaijan's AZER-TAJ news agency, Shamel Mohammadov, on Wednesday [16 November] agreed on cooperation between the two news agencies. They also signed an agreement which proposes the establishment of a union of the news agencies of the Caspian Sea littoral states.

According to the agreement the news agencies of Iran, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation will cooperate in the area of public information and education. Last week IRNA and Russia's ITAR-TASS signed a similar agreement.

IRNA chief Verdinejad, who was in Moscow earlier this week is visiting Baku at the head of a delegation.

'Slump' in UK Trade, Diplomatic Ties Reported

LD1111163194 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Nov. 11, IRNA—British trade with Iran has slumped by pnds 185 million (dlrs 300 m) in the first eight months of this year compared with this same period in 1993, according to the lastest figures from the Central Statistics Office here.

The fall from pnds 494.2 m to pnds 309.1 m represents a 37.5 per cent drop, with British exports to Iran marginally more affected than imports from Tehran, (pnds 93.9 m compared to pnds 91.2 m.

The steep decline shows that bilateral trade is likely to slump to its lowest annual level this year since 1986 and follows 1993's figures reaching their highest level for ten years.

The slump is accounted for partly by Iran cutting back on imports and more significantly from the repeated deterioration in diplomatic relations, which again were soured this year by Britain's continuing hostility towards the Islamic revolution.

An analysis of this year's figures so far shows the biggest falls in the British export of transport and machinery, including in particular power-generating equipment, down pnds 84 m, and manufactured goods, especially iran and steel, down pnds 19 m.

The corresponding drop in UK imports during the first nine months of 1994 was mainly due to Iran selling pnds 66 m worth of oil to London.

In commodity categories, Iran showed a surplus in food products as well as oil but in total trade, has yet to improve upon 1993's performance in addressing the large imbalance remaining in the UK's favor.

Scientific-Technical Agreement With Russia Signed

LD1711111694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A protocol on scientific and technical cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia was signed this morning in Tehran at the end the meeting of the fourth permanent commission of Iranian-Russian scientific and technical cooperation.

According to this protocol, the two sides will continue their cooperation in the following areas: water resources, energy, oil industries, health and hygiene, remote sensing, meteorology, agriculture and animal husbandry, forestry, and the protection of the environment. The two countries will train and exchange experts in the said fields in order to implement joint projects.

The protocol has stipulated that a joint scientific research center is to be founded to study the causes of the rising level of the Caspian Sea.

Peace Efforts Praised at Meeting With Tajik Leader

LD1711110894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting today with Foreign Affairs Minister ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, the leader of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Tajikistan's Islamic Movement [Nahzat-e Eslami-e Tajikistan] referred to the trend of developments in his country and said: We began peace negotiations with the aim of securing the interests of the people of Tajikistan, and we will continue these negotiations with the hope that the talks will produce results that will be beneficial to improving the living conditions of the people of Tajikistan.

The foreign affairs minister, in turn, expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the Tehran talks and the third round of Tajik peace negotiations in Islamabad. He said: The exchange of POWs and other prisoners by the opposition and government forces was the necessary pre-condition for continuation of the cease-fire that was established in Tajikistan and around its borders.

Mr. Velayati also expressed the hope that in the fourth round of negotiations, to be held in Azar [21 November - 21 December] in Moscow, a positive step will be taken towards the establishment of a lasting peace in Tajikistan.

In the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Torajanzadeh, the deputy leader of Tajikistan's Islamic Movement, the leaders of the movement expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring about peace in Tajikistan. They also praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador for helping the process of exchanging POWs.

Official Seeks Expanded Relations With Turkey

LD1611214394 Tehran IRNA in English 2123 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, Nov. 16, IRNA—Iran's consul-general, Mohammad Reza Rashed, emphasized in Istanbul on Wednesday [16 November] the need for expansion of relations between Iran and Turkey in all areas.

Speaking at a press conference, Rashed said the two countries are cooperating in Central Asia and the Caucasus. For instance, he added, Iran and Turkey are providing Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic with its basic necessities.

"Our relations with Turkey are based on respect for law and regulations. We favour expansion of relations with the Muslim state of Turkey," he said.

Rashed said Iran was willing to transfer its natural gas to Europe through Turkey, but, Turkey is not ready to accept the cost of the section of the pipeline which passes through its territory. Nevertheless, he said, the two countries reached a general agreement on the plan.

The Iranian consul refuted the allegations of Iranian assistance to Armenia, and said there were sinister objectives behind such propaganda. "I explicitly say that Armenia is an occupier," he added, referring to the Karabakh conflict between that republic and Azerbaijan.

He described trade relations between Turkey and Iran as excellent and said that the recent decline in the volume of trade exchange was due to the activation of Iranian factories following the reparations after the Iraqi war.

Velayati, Turkish Minister Discuss Bosnian Crisis

LD1611223594 Tehran IRNA in English 2145 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Iran and Turkey have called for the meeting of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] on the Bosnian crisis.

The Foreign Minister of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Turkish counterpart Mumtaz Soysal in a telephone conversation Wednesday expressed concern over the recent aggressions of the Serbs against the Bosnian Muslims. Velayati said Iran and Turkey should cooperate on the international scene.

Soysal for his part referred to the efforts of the Turkish Government for breaking the embargo against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They also agreed that the OIC member states convene their assembly soon. The two officials also discussed Iran-Turkey relations.

Bosnia Asks For Continued Assistance

LD1611213694 Tehran IRNA in English 2104 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubljankic in a message cabled to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday [16 November] called for removal of all hurdles for dispatch of peacekeeping forces from Muslim countries, especially from Iran, to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Ljubljankic thanked Iran for its unsparing and humanitarian assistance to the oppressed and defenseless Bosnian people.

Referring to latest developments in the republic, especially the brutal attacks of the Serbs on Bihac, the shelling of Sarajevo, and the feeble stand of the United Nations Protection Forces' (UNPROFOR) in this regard, Ljubljankic called on Iran to play an active role at the upcomming summit in Morroco of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO].

He also underlined Bosnia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and opposed any plan to disrupt the same. He called on OIC to exert pressure and oppose the easing of economic sanctions against Serbia.

Referring to potentials of Muslim countries in various fields, he called for Muslim countries' strong presence and their taking actions to solve the Balkans crisis.

Ministry Sees Israeli 'Bid To Mar' Foreign Ties

LD1611181494 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

here today dismissed as "futile" and "cowardly" the Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' bid to mar Iran's foreign relations.

In his talks with IRNA, Mahmoudi called Israel a "rootless" and "terrorist" entity, and said by such propaganda the Zionist occupiers intend to break out of their political isolation.

In an act which betrays desperation the Zionist regime including Peres have asked Austria to severe its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mohammadi commenting on the provocative act said relations between legitimate governments and countries with political identity were based on mutual interests irrespective of the plots of the Zionists.

He said a clear proof in this regard was the candid rejection by a high ranking Austrian official of the Zionist request, and his calling for further promotion of Tehran-Vienna relations.

Grand Ayatollah's Health Condition 'Improving'

LD1611172894 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki's health condition is improving, his grandson, Ahmad Moslehi said here today.

He said doctors described the general condition of centenarian ayatollah as satisfactory. "His temperature is down and there is no problem with him for the time being", Moslehi added. The grand ayatollah was admitted to the hospital two weeks ago for complications arising out of old age.

New TV News Bulletin To Begin 24 Nov

LD1611194294 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Simultaneous with the anniversary of the birthday [24 November] of the great lady of Islam, Her Holiness Zahra, peace be upon her, the first network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [Iranian TV's first channel] will begin its midday news bulletin. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the midday news bulletin of the Vision will contain political, social, economic, scientific, and cultural news, as well as sports news and political commentaries. The duration of the news bulletin is 30 minutes and begins at 1400 hours [1030 GMT].

Nepal

Midterm House of Representatives Elections Held

Elections Conclude 'Peacefully'

LD1511153594 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcripted Excerpt] The general elections 1994 concluded peacefully throughout the kingdom today. According to a spokesman of the Election Commission, the preliminary estimate has put the total voters' turnout in [words indistinct] electorate at 55-60 percent. A total of 1,057 candidates of 24 parties were in the electoral fray; 385 independent candidates also contested the election. The number of women candidates was 86.

Today's election forms the House of Representatives, with a five-year term. [passage omitted]

The spokesman of the Election Commission has stated that polling in 42 polling centers was postponed due to various reasons. Polling in these centers will take place on 17 September [as heard].

According to the spokesman of the Home Ministry, with the exception of some isolated incidents, polling in general was peaceful throughout the kingdom. The spokesman said Porendra Poljam was killed and two others seriously injured in a firing incident in Rautahat, Constituency No. 2 [words indistinct] polling center when a fight broke out between rival groups. Police have arrested 57 people throughout the kingdom on the charge of trying to disrupt polling and incite brawls, the spokesman added.

Communists Lead Early Returns

BK1711050794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the midterm elections in Nepal, the Communist Party of Nepal-UML [United Marxist-Leninist] is maintaining its lead winning 32 out of 57 results announced so far. The ruling Nepali Congress is trailing behind with 14 seats. The Rastriya Prajatantra Party has seven seats, the Nepal Mazdoor-Kisan Party two and independents two.

The prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, has won from both [words indistinct] constituencies. The president of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party and former prime minister, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, has won from Dhankota seat, but is trailing in Sarlahi. Other prominent winners include the president of the Communist Party of Nepal-UML, Mr. Manmohan Adhikari, and a minister Mr. Govind Raj Joshi.

Our Katmandu correspondent Ratan Salve says counting is in progress in 51 constituencies and the Communist Party of Nepal-UML is leading in 35 of them. The Nepali Congress is ahead in 27. Counting in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the mountainous region is likely to start in three to four days time as the ballot boxes have not reached the district headquarters as yet.

Observers Claim Irregularities

BK1711140894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu Nov 17 (AFP)—The elections in Nepal this week were generally free and fair, except for serious irregularities in certain voting districts, a group of international monitors said Thursday [17 November].

"Most cases of irregularities seem to have been committed by the present ruling party (Nepali Congress), although other major parties were also reported," according to a preliminary report by the National Elections Observation Committee.

A group of 127 observers from 29 countries was invited to monitor the elections on Tuesday.

Among the infractions they reported were proxy voting, underage voting, multiple voting, sale of votes, and in certain areas "intimidation of voters was observed" and voting booths were taken.

But Hans-Pavia Rosing, a Danish legislator and monitor, said the infractions were not enough to void the election.

Pakistan

Security for U.S., Indian Diplomats Increased

BK1511112094 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Nov 94 p 22

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Nov 14—Security at the houses of US and Indian diplomats and their missions in the city have been beefed up to ward off any violence against them by the supporters of Mohajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] (Haqiqi) who are observing a "Black Day" on Tuesday [15 November].

The law enforcement agencies have been asked to deploy armoured personnel carries at Fresno Chowk on Burns Road, near Avari Towers and Jang Press and deploy extra security at the US and Indian consulates and at the residences of their employees.

The provincial government of Syed Abdullah Shah took the initiative following reports that the MQM Haqiqi will burn flags of these two countries and hold protest demonstrations in the city.

For the last few months, MQM Haqiqi Chief Afaq Ahmed has repeatedly claimed that the governments of United States and India, are hatching a conspiracy to give Karachi an independent status.

The South District administration has also ordered all the senior police officers to remain vigilant on Tuesday and make sure that neither any one attack the MQM Haqiqi rally in Saddar nor do they try to attack any diplomatic mission or any diplomat.

Meanwhile, in a Press statement issued on Monday, Afaq Ahmed claimed that the Mohajir men, women and children will observe a black day on Tuesday to protest against the interference by US and Indian missions in the city in the provincial affairs.

Blaming these two countries for the recent bloodshed in the city, the MQM Haqiqi chief claimed that to have a lasting peace, the conspiracies to separate Karachi, should be crushed by the public.

Palestinian Qaddumi Pays 3-Day Visit

To Discuss Ties, Islamic Summit

BK1511133194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister of Palestine, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, arrived in Islamabad today on a three-day visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport among others by Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi stressed that Islamic countries should promote multilateral cooperation for solution of problems facing the ummah [Islamic community]. He said he will discuss with the Pakistan officials bilateral relations and matters relating to the forthcoming Islamic summit in Morocco. He lauded Pakistan's support for the cause of Palestine. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said they will discuss entire range of relations between the two countries and matters pertaining to ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]. He hoped the visit of Mr. Qaddumi will further enhance relations between Pakistan and Palestine.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

BK1511134494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and the State of Palestine have set up a joint commission to institutionalize bilateral cooperation in various fields. A protocol to this effect was signed in Islamabad this afternoon between the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and his Palestinian counterpart Mr. Faruq Qaddumi. The commission will help boost cooperation in economic, trade, scientific and technological, educational, tourism, and cultural sectors.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at the airport after his arrival, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi stressed that Islamic countries should promote multilateral cooperation for solution of problems facing the ummah [Islamic community]. He lauded Pakistan's support for the cause of Palestine. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who received his Palestinian counterpart, hoped that the visit of Mr. Qaddumi will enhance relations between Pakistan and Palestine.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Paper Publishes Joint Protocol

BK1711090594 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 16—The government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the State of Palestine desirous of expanding cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific and technological, communication, information, education, tourism and cultural fields, have agreed on the following:

Article I:

In order to implement this protocol and to promote wide-ranging mutually beneficial cooperation, the state parties have agreed on the establishment of a Pakistan-Palestine Joint Commission (hereinafter) called the 'Joint Commission'. The Joint Commission will consist of the representatives of state parties and shall,

(a) Examine all issues of mutual interest in the economic, trade, scientific and technological, communications (including air, road, railway-links of both parties and sea parts in Pakistan), information, education, tourism and cultural fields and give proposals for broadening cooperation in these areas:

(b) Propose specific forms of cooperation in above fields, and

(c) Consider other issues relating to mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries and suggest definite measures for the promotion of such cooperation.

Article II:

The joint commission shall be established at government level. Each government shall nominate its representative on this commission who will be known as cochairman for his respective side.

The commission may establish, if needed, standing committees to determine the composition, functions and guidelines for such committees.

The session of the commission shall be held, as a rule, once a year alternatively in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the State of Palestine.

Article III:

This protocol may be amended by mutual consent.

Article IV:

This protocol is subject to ratification in accordance with the respective constitutional procedures and shall come into force from the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.

This protocol has been concluded for an indefinite period. However, it may be terminated by either party on giving six months written notice to the other party.

The protocol was signed by Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and Farouk Kaddoumi Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine.

Qaddumi Meets Bhutto, Ali

BK1511165394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has assured the Palestinian foreign minister of Pakistan's continued support to the PLO in its just struggle for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. She said this during informal talks held at a lunch hosted by her for the visiting Palestinian delegation. A wide range of subjects of mutual interest and concern were covered in the talks.

Formal talks between Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and his counterpart of the State of Palestine Faruq Qaddumi were held in Islamabad today. The two sides discussed bilateral and international issues of mutual interest. During the talks, Sardar Asif Ahmad reaffirmed Pakistan's support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their right of self-determination and the creation of an independent homeland of their own. He assured that Pakistan will continue to extend diplomatic support to the PLO in its effort to regain full sovereignty over the occupied Arab territory. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also briefed the foreign minister of Palestine on the latest developments in Indian-held Kashmir. He particularly drew the attention of Qaddumi to the gross violations of human rights and the atrocities being committed by the Indian forces. Qaddumi also expressed his sympathy for the just struggle of Kashmiris and said that they supported a peaceful solution of the problem in accordance with international laws as well as the Simla agreement.

Editorial Views Recognition of Israel

BK1711111894 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 Nov 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Issue of Israel's Recognition"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ongoing Israel efforts to improve relations with the Islamic world are currently focussed on Pakistan, as also on other Asian Muslim countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Recent statements issued by the Israeli Foreign Ministry apologising for its government's previous rude behaviour with the Pakistani prime minister at the time of barring her planned visit to Jericho and expressing a desire to have better relations, are steps in this direction. Pakistan's stand on the matter of having ties with Israel has been clear-cut all along: before even considering the issue of recognition of Israel, Pakistan will consult ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and other Muslim countries. This stand of Pakistan is perfectly consistent with the historic role it has played in the Middle East

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

situation arising out of the PLO-Israel controversy. Earlier this year, Pakistan welcomed the PLO-Israel accord, but insisted that the UN Resolutions 242 and 388 be fully implemented and all occupied lands be returned by Israel. Pakistan's view has been that although Yasir 'Arafat has agreed to the establishment of a Palestinian government, the fundamental issue is still there; it demands that Bait-ul-Maqdas be freed, all areas occupied after the war of 1949 and 1967 be liberated and all the Palestinian refugees rehabilitated in the motherland. Bait-ul-Maqdas has not been freed, nor the occupied territories liberated, but Israel boasted soon after the peace accord with the PLO of having established relations with 12 Muslim countries, including Egypt and Turkey, and friends of Pakistan, including China, maintaining that Pakistan has no reason to stand away when the Palestinians have also ended the 50 years old strife.

In Pakistan, however, the issue of recognition of Israel is a volatile one and requires delicate handling. As observed, even rumours of having any clandestine contact with Israel at the governmental level has put the accused party on the defensive; allegations of the sort are common in Pakistan to excite public emotions against the incumbent government. The reasons are understandable. Pakistan is a country where religious sentiments have ruled supreme; and the issue of Palestine has traditionally been viewed as a Muslim issue rather than an Arab or territorial one. Different Pakistani governments have been vehemently supporting the Palestinian cause at the international level, as seeking solidarity and integrity with the Muslim world has been one of the main concerns of its foreign policy. Pakistan has been in the front line of all resolutions tabled in the United Nations for evacuation of the occupied territories and the right of Palestinians. Also, Israel's friendship with India, its support for the Indian point of view on the Kashmir issue, as well as its role in the destruction of Iraq's nuclear capacity, have created hard feelings between Pakistan and Israel. At this point, when Israel is hoping that Pakistan will change its stance following the lead of Egypt, Jordan and the PLO, any hasty move should be avoided. The country's international policy reference to the situation in the Middle East requires careful deliberations and evaluation. Israel's efforts to win support of Muslim states, as already mentioned, have not been without fruit. Visible dents are there in the firm stand of the Muslim world against the recognition of Israel, and changes are discernable in the outlooks of Arab states regarding Israel. While many key countries have already moved in the direction of recognising Israel, some more may be considering to do so. Long committed to supporting Arab Muslim states on the question of Palestine, at this point Pakistan can still play a useful role by persuading others as well to make recognition conditional on the acceptance of basic demands on the part of Israel.

Nawaz Sharif's Father Arrested on Fraud Charges

BK1311134794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the complaint of the Income Tax Department, the Federal Government has initiated two criminal cases against Mr. Mohammad Sharif, father of the leader of the opposition, Mr. Nawaz Sharif; and other members of his family. Announcing the details of the alleged criminal misconduct and malpractices committed by the family members and other close relatives of Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the federal minister for interior, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, said in two different cases of fraud, Mian Nawaz Sharif's family swindled millions of dollars. He said through two companies—Hodaibia Engineering and Hodaibia Paper Mills Limited—Mian Mohammad Sharif, Mian Shahwaz Sharif, Mian Abbas Sharif, Mian Hasan Nawaz, Mian Hamza Shahwaz, and Begun Qulsum Nawaz Sharif operated their accounts and opened fake bank accounts with foreign currencies in different banks, including Habib Bank AG, Zurich. These accounts were opened initially with small deposits, but under political influence, bank loans in the shape of bearer certificates worth $750,000 were issued to one of the directors of the company in one case only. The minister said these accused enjoyed the facilities of drawing huge loans which they further deposited in Al-Faysal Bank, Bank of America, and Chemical Bank of New York. In these transactions, Hodaibia Engineering and Hodaibia Paper Mills declared incorrect facts before the Income Tax Department.

Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar said the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] initiated investigation into these cases of fraud and found Mian Mohammad Sharif, father of Mr. Nawaz Sharif; and other family members involved in the cases of cheating, fraud, and nondeclaration of facts before the Income Tax Department.

The interior minister announced that after obtaining sufficient evidence, the Federal Government has apprehended Mian Mohammad Sharif from Lahore today and arrests of others involved in these cases is expected. He said since these fraud cases involving millions of dollars were committed under the political patronage of former prime minister, the Federal Government is also weighing options of sending reference against Mian Nawaz Sharif, Mian Sahbaz Sharif, and Mian Abbas Sharif to the chief election commissioner.

Released on 'Humanitarian Grounds'

BK1711063094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an official announcement in Islamabad last night, the government has released Mian Mohammad Sharif, father of the leader of the opposition, on parole on humanitarian grounds.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Interior in Islamabad yesterday denied the allegation leveled by the opposition that Begum Mohammad Sharif faced derogatory treatment by FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] officials when she reached the Pakistan Institute of medical Sciences to meet her husband Mian Mohammad Sharif on Tuesday last. Explaining the position, the spokesman said that Begum Mohammad Sharif, who is also mother of the leader of the opposition, was given due protocol and all respect and regard when she arrived at the hospital. The spokesman said she did not have permission to meet her husband in the hospital. She was therefore advised to wait for some time. After permission had been obtained, she was allowed to meet her husband.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.